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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Hosokawa Addresses Trilateral Commission Opening *[KYODO]* 1
Atomic Industrial Forum Meeting Opens in Japan *[KYODO]* 1
Discusses Peaceful Atomic Uses *[KYODO]* 1
Energy Policy Experts Urge Global Cooperation *[KYODO]* 1

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Vice Minister Urges Informal U.S. Trade Talks *[KYODO]* 2
Officials Preview U.S. Secretary Perry's Visit *[KYODO]* 2
Nissan Decides on U.S. Production of Forklifts *[KYODO]* 2
Tokyo Condemns Bus Bomb Attack in Israel *[KYODO]* 2
Saito: DPRK Solution Sought Through Dialogue *[KYODO]* 2
Japanese, ROK Business Executives Meet *[KYODO]* 3
Saito Says G-7 Talks To Focus on Jobs, Growth *[KYODO]* 3
Rice Imports Reportedly Top 1 Million Tons *[KYODO]* 3
Differences Over Hosokawa's Successor Continue 3
Coalition Remains Divided *[KYODO]* 3
Miyazawa Faction Supports Kono *[KYODO]* 4
Coalition Forum Adopts Proposals *[KYODO]* 4
Lower House Members Support Hata *[KYODO]* 5
Watanabe on 'Strong Interest' *[KYODO]* 5
Mori Opposes Watanabe's Bid *[KYODO]* 6
Komeito Urges Party Officials Meet *[KYODO]* 6
Business Leader Expresses 'Fears' *[KYODO]* 7
Sakigake Threatens To Leave Ruling Coalition *[KYODO]* 7
Murayama Opposes Kubo Plan on Reconciliation *[KYODO]* 7
Vice Ministers Seek Quick Government Formation *[KYODO]* 8
Court Rejects Nakamura Bail Appeal Third Time *[KYODO]* 8
Shirai on Admonishing Broadcasting Bureau Chief *[KYODO]* 8
German Rate Cut 'Helpful' to World Economy *[KYODO]* 9
Mieno: Economy Ready 'To Snap Out' of Recession *[KYODO]* 9
Land Price Controls Eased by Local Governments *[KYODO]* 9
Wholesale Price Index Said Down in Mar *[KYODO]* 10
Kato: Tax Increase Needed for Aging Society *[KYODO]* 10
Steel Output Falls 1.9 Percent in FY '93 *[KYODO]* 11

North Korea

UNSC Urged To 'Immediately Revoke' Resolution *[KCNA]* 11
Hanchongnyon's Plans for 16 Apr Rally Noted *[KCNA]* 11
ROK Denounced for Rejecting Liaison Proposal *[Pyongyang Radio]* 12
ROK Urged To Attend 'Historic' Conference *[KCNA]* 12
Kim Yong-sun Talks With Former Foreign Leaders *[KCNA]* 13
Discusses U.S. Talks, Ties *[KCNA]* 13
U.S. Deployment of Military Airplanes Denounced *[Pyongyang Radio]* 14
1986 U.S. 'Brutal Bombing Raid' on Libya Viewed *[KCNA]* 14
Hwang Chang-yop at Talks With Brazilians *[KCNA]* 14
Anniversary of Foundation of Zimbabwe Marked *[KCNA]* 15
Kim Il-song Sends Funds to Koreans in Japan *[KCNA]* 15
Reportage on Kim Il-song's Birthday Gifts 15
Economic Officials Give Flowers *[KCNA]* 15
Diplomatic Corps Gives Flowers *[KCNA]* 15

PRENSA LATINA Head Gives Gift *[KCNA]* 15
Art Propaganda Troupe Encourages Working People *[KCNA]* 15

South Korea

Trade Talks Held With U.S. Trade Representative *[YONHAP]* 16
DPRK Reportedly Asks U.S. To Resume Contact *[CHOSON ILBO 14 Apr]* 16
Blix: DPRK Building Another Reprocessing Plant *[Seoul Radio]* 16
ROK, Russia Reach Accord on DPRK Loggers *[YONHAP]* 16
Seoul To Ask UN To Intervene *[YONHAP]* 17
ROK To Raise DPRK Rights Issues at World Forums *[YONHAP]* 17
DPRK Refrains From Buying Foreign 'April 15 Gifts' *[YONHAP]* 18
PRC's Qian Qichen Cited on DPRK Issue Progress *[YONHAP]* 18
PRC To Open Military Attache Office 16 Apr *[Seoul Radio]* 18
Signing of 'Friendship Treaty' With PRC Proposed *[YONHAP]* 18
Contract Signed With PRC To Build Hotel *[YONHAP]* 19
'Sangmudae' Funding Increases Tension Within DLP *[THE KOREA TIMES 14 Apr]* 19
Threat of Scandal Said Defused *[YONHAP]* 20
* Work To Develop CDMA System Accelerates *[HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN 10 Mar]* 20

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Border Meeting With Indonesia Opens 12 Apr *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 22
Forestry Bill Revision Reduces Illegal Logging *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 22
Opposition Leader Questions Central Bank Losses *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 13 Apr]* 22

Cambodia

Ranariddh Welcomes Mahathir, Delegation *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 22
Khmer Rouge Spokesman Denies Pailin Recaptured *[AFP]* 23

Indonesia

Editorial Views Objectives, Role of G-15 *[SUARA PEMBARUAN in 30 Mar]* 23
Diplomatic Ties Established With Bosnia-Herzegovina *[Jakarta Radio]* 24
*President, Foreign Minister on Nonaligned Movement *[KOMPAS 11 Feb]* 24
*Parties Should Decide on Leadership Succession *[ANGKATAN BERSENJATA 22 Mar]* 26

Laos

Australian Immigration Minister Arrives *[Vientiane Radio]* 26
SRV National Assembly Delegation Ends Visit *[KPL]* 26
Memorandum on Missing Vietnamese Signed *[KPL]* 27

Thailand

Missing Russian Diplomat Believed 'Still Alive' *[NAEO NA 14 Apr]* 27
Trang Governor, Police Official on Terrorism *[Bangkok Radio]* 27
THAI RAT on Cambodian Border Situation *[14 Apr]* 28
Concerted Effort Urged To Restore Cambodian Trust *[MATICHON 14 Apr]* 28

Vietnam

Australia's Prime Minister Keating Ends Visit *[Hanoi Radio]* 29
Russian Delegation To Promote Cooperation 29
Vo Van Kiet Meets With Yarov *[VNA]* 29
Tran Duc Luong, Yarov Visit Power Plant *[Hanoi Radio]* 29
Nong Duc Manh Receives Chinese NPC Delegation *[Hanoi Radio]* 29
French Military Delegation Ends Visit *[VNA]* 29
Party Delegation Concludes Visit to Japan *[VNA]* 30
Tourism Cooperation Agreement Signed With Malaysia *[VNA]* 30
Economic, Trade Relations With India Reviewed *[Hanoi International]* 30
Military Party Holds Midterm Party Conference *[Hanoi Radio]* 30

Hosokawa Addresses Trilateral Commission Opening

OW0904050494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0441 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 9 KYODO—Outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Saturday [9 April] the new administration will put top priority on economic reforms and deregulation.

Addressing the opening session of the Trilateral Commission, Hosokawa contended that his government has laid down the ground work for deregulation since it came to power last August.

The commission is formed by 330 former political and business leaders from Japan, the United States and Europe to set forth proposals on problems of common interest. It is chaired by former U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker.

The current session, which opened at a Tokyo hotel on Saturday, is the commission's 25th general meeting.

Hosokawa announced Friday he will step down to take responsibility for a stalemate in the Diet over his personal problems, including a 100 million yen loan from Sagawa Kyubin, the scandal-tainted trucking group.

Referring to foreign criticism that Japan's markets are closed to imports, Hosokawa said Japan should take positive action to open its markets, regarding such criticism as an expression of hope for an economic transformation. He said promoting economic reform not only benefits the Japanese people but is also Japan's international obligation.

Atomic Industrial Forum Meeting Opens in Japan

OW1304012894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0108 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Hiroshima, April 13 KYODO—The Japan Atomic Industrial Forum began its annual meeting Wednesday [13 April] in Hiroshima, the first time it has been held in the world's first atomic-bombed city.

The three-day meeting has as its theme "toward a world free of nuclear weapons, the role of peaceful use." It will feature addresses on Wednesday by Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Rhodes.

This year for the first time, at a Wednesday panel discussion, the meeting will deal with the problems of dismantling nuclear weapons.

On Thursday, atomic power advocates are scheduled to meet with citizens of Hiroshima and victims of the 1945 atomic bombing, including the head of an association of Korean victims of the nuclear holocaust, Yi Sil-gun [name as received], for an exchange of opinions.

Some 1,500 atomic power specialists from Japan and abroad are expected to take part in the symposium, which has been held annually since 1968.

Discusses Peaceful Atomic Uses

OW1304062994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0557 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Hiroshima, April 13 KYODO—A forum on atomic energy started a three-day conference Wednesday [13 April] in this atomic-bombed city to discuss the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Takashi Mukaibo, chairman of the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, urged participants to discuss the elimination of nuclear weapons and the peaceful uses of atomic energy as the 50th anniversary of A-bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki is approaching.

About 1,500 atomic power specialists from Japan and abroad are taking part in the 27th annual conference.

Around the conference hall in central Hiroshima, about 30 antinuclear activists protested the meeting.

Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told the meeting that the IAEA will hold a special meeting on April 21 and 22 in Vienna to discuss the Chernobyl nuclear reactors in Ukraine.

Chernobyl was the scene of one of the world's most serious nuclear accidents in 1986. Although the nuclear reactor involved in the accident has not been operational, two other reactors have since been in operation. The Ukrainian government decided to continue to operate the two reactors and has asked the IAEA to investigate safety.

On Thursday, atomic power advocates are scheduled to meet with citizens of Hiroshima and victims of the 1945 atomic bombing, including the head of an association of Korean victims of the nuclear holocaust, Yi Sil-gun [name as received], for an exchange of opinions.

Energy Policy Experts Urge Global Cooperation

OW1404132994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Kyoto, April 14 KYODO—The world's energy policy experts jointly called for stronger global cooperation for stable economic growth and energy policies at a seminar under sponsorship of the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Kyoto on Thursday [14 April].

The seminar, hosted by Japan to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the agency's establishment, gathered some 300 participants from 26 countries around the world, including four nonmember nations of the agency such as Russia. The guests, including Bob Hawke, former Australian prime minister, and Brent Scowcroft, former U.S. presidential assistant, discussed current problems in global security policies in relation to energy in the post-Cold War era.

They stressed it is important for all countries in the world to strengthen cooperation through international organizations like the IEA to maintain stable economic growth and energy policies.

Otto Lambsdorff, former German economic minister, discussed the global warming problem stemming from increasing energy use. He suggested creation of a tax on carbon dioxide emissions and said countries capable of introducing such a tax should do so as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Japan

Vice Minister Urges Informal U.S. Trade Talks

OW1404061794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0612 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Japan and the United States should hold informal talks for an early resumption of the stalled trade "framework" talks, a senior trade ministry official said Thursday.

The two countries are striving to break the impasse over the framework talks through official meetings such as planned talks between Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in Marrakech, Morocco, said Hideaki Kumano, vice international trade and industry minister.

"But it is also necessary for Tokyo to make efforts to improve the situation through informal talks," Kumano told a press conference.

"The Japanese Government is doing everything it can to pave the way for reopening the framework talks," Kumano said.

Earlier reports said the government seeks to reach a basic accord with the U.S. on resuming the framework talks before the Naples summit of the seven major industrialized countries in July.

Kumano confirmed that the ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Marrakech will take up wide-ranging global trade issues, including a linkage between trade and labor rights.

But he refrained from clarifying Japan's stance on labor issues in global trade.

The U.S. and France have proposed that the World Trade Organization (WTO), a body to replace GATT, should deal with forced labor, child labor, poor working conditions and other labor issues, a stance strongly opposed by some developing countries.

Officials Preview U.S. Secretary Perry's Visit

OW1404090194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry will visit Japan from April 19 to 21 to hold talks with the prime minister and foreign minister, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

Perry, who will fly to Tokyo from Seoul, will also meet with the Defense Agency chief, the officials said.

He is expected to discuss problems involving North Korea's alleged development of nuclear weapons and the Japan-U.S. security arrangement, they said.

He may also inspect U.S. forces during his stay, they said.

Nissan Decides on U.S. Production of Forklifts

OW1404135594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1307 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Nissan Motor Co. said Thursday [14 April] that one of its U.S. subsidiaries will start production of Nissan electric forklifts in the second half of 1995.

Nissan Forklift Corp., North America (NFC), based in Marengo, Illinois, made the decision in order to further advance localization as well as to help shorten delivery time and cut production costs, the second-largest Japanese automaker said.

NFC now produces internal-combustion-powered forklifts mainly for the North American market. It also makes electric forklifts under the Barrett brand name.

NFC is owned 2 percent by Nissan, 88 percent by a Nissan subsidiary, Nissan Industrial Equipment Co., and the remaining 10 percent by Marubeni Corp., a giant Japanese trading house.

Tokyo Condemns Bus Bomb Attack in Israel

OW1404094294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0931 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Japan condemned Thursday [14 April] a bus bombing the previous day in Hadera, northern Israel, which killed at least six people and wounded about 30.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the Japanese Government "strongly regrets" that civilians were victims in the attack and offered its sympathies to their families.

"Japan strongly condemns this kind of terrorism by some extremists, which is aimed at obstructing the peace process," the statement said.

Japan also regrets that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) have not yet agreed on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho despite an historic declaration on principles on self-rule last September in Washington.

The declaration stipulated the deadline for completion of the withdrawal as April 13.

Japan will continue to support the peace process, the statement said.

Saito: DPRK Solution Sought Through Dialogue

OW1404150594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1446 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The head of the U.N. nuclear monitoring agency predicts the problem of North Korea's alleged development of nuclear weapons may be brought up again at the U.N. Security Council if there is no progress on the issue by early May, a top Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Thursday [14 April].

Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), made the remark in a meeting with Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito, the official said.

Saito told Blix that Japan wants to seek a solution to the North Korean nuclear problem through dialogue, he said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, declined to elaborate on the meeting.

Blix is in Japan to attend an annual meeting in Hiroshima of the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum.

He said in Hiroshima that the IAEA has sent a letter to North Korea asking that inspectors be allowed access to a radiochemical laboratory but that Pyongyang has not responded yet.

IAEA inspectors were allowed into North Korea in March for their first look at nuclear facilities there in more than a year.

But they were unable to determine if radioactive materials had been diverted to military purposes because North Korea blocked the inspectors from a key laboratory.

North Korea says its nuclear program is peaceful.

Japanese, ROK Business Executives Meet

OW1404105794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0950 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Fukuoka, April 14 KYODO—Japanese and South Korean business executives opened a two-day meeting Thursday [14 April] on Japan's westernmost main island of Kyushu to discuss economic cooperation between the two countries.

About 300 executives are attending the 26th annual joint meeting of the private Japan-Korea Economic Committee and its South Korean counterpart at a Fukuoka hotel.

Nobuya Hagura, chairman of the Japan-Korea Economic Association and adviser to Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, and Pak Yong-hak, chairman of its South Korean counterpart, made opening speeches at the meeting, the first to be held in Kyushu.

The meeting will close Friday, when it issues a joint statement after holding subcommittee sessions on trade, industrial cooperation and various exchanges between the two countries.

Saito Says G-7 Talks To Focus on Jobs, Growth

OW1404091494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—World growth and job problems will top discussions at a series of international financial meetings slated later this month in Washington, a senior Finance Ministry official said Thursday [14 April].

The meetings will "center on the issues of still high unemployment among Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations and on stable world growth, particularly with European nations still not in good shape," Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito told a news meeting.

A spate of international gatherings of financial leaders are scheduled in Washington late this month, led by the semiannual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Interim Committee, the Joint Development Committee of the IMF and the World Bank.

An international financial source said finance ministers and central bankers from the G-7 nations are expected to meet April 24 before the gatherings.

The G-7 nations are Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Saito said he is yet not certain about a bilateral meeting between Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii and U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen.

Rice Imports Reportedly Top 1 Million Tons

OW1404081594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0804 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Japan's imports of table-use rice to deal with a poor rice crop in 1993 topped one million tons as of Wednesday, the Food Agency reported Thursday [13 April].

It said the imports totaled 1,007,300 tons, comprising 458,200 tons from Thailand, 325,200 tons from China, 175,900 tons from the United States and 48,000 tons from Australia.

Differences Over Hosokawa's Successor Continue

Coalition Remains Divided

OW1404141994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1358 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—A lingering row within the governing coalition on Thursday [14 April] continued the stalemate in talks over future policies and the choice of a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Leaders of three of the seven coalition parties met Thursday evening and agreed not to endorse a package of proposals adopted at an earlier meeting of the coalition's decision-making caucus made up of secretaries general, coalition officials said.

The three parties are the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the largest coalition contingent, and its two allies—the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and new party Sakigake [Harbinger].

At the gathering of the coalition executives, which Sakigake boycotted, they shared the view that the eight-month-old alliance might collapse if its components reject the agreement, the officials said.

The agreement calls on all top leaders of coalition parties to decide by themselves to convene a meeting to discuss

the makeup of a new coalition government and the selection of a candidate to replace Hosokawa, the officials said.

It also included an accord to resume talks on policy matters toward establishment of the next administration and an appeal for Sakigake, a tiny component of the ruling union, to return to the negotiating table, they said.

Sakigake, led by Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura, convened a general meeting Thursday evening of all its 15 House of Representatives members, who unanimously agreed to reject the coalition accord on the reopening of policy talks, party officials said.

Sakigake has contended that top party leaders, and not the secretaries general-level representatives, should contemplate a combination of political parties that would comprise the new coalition government and find a successor to Hosokawa.

It is widely believed the party's stance is intended to prevent the coalition's main strategist Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), and his ally, Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa, from dominating policy-making on the choice of a new premier.

Under the Hosokawa administration, the personal rivalry between Ozawa and Takemura flared up many times over such key policy issues as political reform, the partial opening of Japan's rice market, and Hosokawa's abortive attempts to impose a new value-added tax called the "National Welfare Tax" and reshuffle the cabinet.

In a three-way meeting Thursday morning, SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama, DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi and Sakigake's Takemura agreed that a forum of all coalition heads should seek a breakthrough in the selection process.

The three parties earlier called for a meeting of the coalition leaders, but Shinseito, Komeito and Hosokawa's Japan New Party (JNP) rejected the appeal.

Following rejection of the package by the three coalition heads and Sakigake, the deputy chiefs met twice and agreed to allow the SDP and the DSP to take their time to fine-tune opinions within the parties, coalition officials said.

The coalition executives will gather again on Friday afternoon, the officials said.

Miyazawa Faction Supports Kono

OW1404125794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1203 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Yohei Kono will meet Michio Watanabe, an LDP faction leader and former foreign minister, on Friday [15 April] to ask him not to run for the premiership to avoid splitting the largest opposition party, LDP sources said Thursday.

Kono will visit the faction office of Watanabe at 4 P.M. [0700 GMT] Friday, they said.

Kono vowed Tuesday to run in a prime ministerial election in the Diet for the successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who last Friday announced his resignation.

Watanabe is eager to be prime minister and had rejected Kono's request for face-to-face talks.

Executive members of his faction met Wednesday and agreed to lobby other LDP members by seeking their signatures endorsing Watanabe as the next premier, faction sources said. Nearly 100 signatures have been collected, a senior faction executive said.

Watanabe faction executives affirmed their opinions that the LDP president must not necessarily be the party's candidate for prime minister, and that a government with large alliances of ruling and opposition camps is needed to break through the political turmoil following Hosokawa's announcement, they said.

Members of an LDP faction led by former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa agreed Thursday to back Kono as the sole LDP candidate for the premiership, faction sources said. Kono had belonged to the Miyazawa faction until he became LDP president last July.

The Miyazawa faction decided to set up an election campaign office for Kono in a Tokyo hotel in case Watanabe does not give up his candidacy and to seek support from other parties' members, the sources said.

In three other factions—led respectively by former Transport Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, former Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi and former State Minister Toshio Komoto—members generally fear a party split-up and hope Kono and Watanabe will peacefully resolve the candidacy issue through talks, faction sources said.

Watanabe emerged earlier this week as a prime ministerial candidate after a feud within the ruling coalition threatened to split the government, weakening the chances of front-runner Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata being named Hosokawa's successor.

But on Tuesday, the coalition, which was on the verge of collapse, moved to maintain the current framework of the government, once again strengthening Hata's hand.

However, a senior member of Watanabe's faction said there is still hope Watanabe will be named prime minister because the ruling coalition parties have failed to mend wounds within the shaky alliance and band together to support Hata.

Coalition Forum Adopts Proposals

OW1404103494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1023 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The ruling coalition proposed Thursday [14 April] that top leaders of the seven coalition parties decide by themselves to convene a meeting to discuss the choice of successor to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, coalition officials said.

This was part of a set of proposals adopted at a Thursday evening session of the coalition's decision-making forum at the level of secretaries general.

The package of proposals also included agreement to launch talks on policy matters toward establishment of a new government and an appeal for new party Sakigake [Harbinger], one of the seven ruling parties, to come back to the forum, the officials said.

The secretaries general of the parties in the forum, which was boycotted by Sakigake, shared the perception that the eight-month alliance might be dissolved if the parties involved reject the accord, the officials said.

Leaders of three of the seven parties—the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and Sakigake—gathered to consider the set of proposals Thursday evening but agreed to reject it.

Sakigake, led by Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura, convened a general meeting of all its 15 members in the House of Representatives on Thursday, who agreed unanimously to reject the coalition agreement on the launching of policy talks, Sakigake officials said.

Sakigake has insisted that party leaders, and not the deputy chiefs, should work out a combination of political parties that would comprise the new coalition government and pick a candidate to succeed Hosokawa.

In a three-way morning meeting, SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama, DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi and Sakigake leader Takemura agreed that a breakthrough should be sought through a meeting of party heads, SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo told a news conference.

The three parties earlier called for a forum of the seven coalition party leaders to select a candidate for new premier, but Shinseito [Japan New Party], Komeito and Hosokawa's Japan New Party (JNP) rejected the appeal.

Takemura said in TV interviews Wednesday night that he considered it important to establish a democratic system of decision-making within the coalition.

Takemura also urged the coalition partners to coordinate their basic policies, decide on the framework of a new coalition government and select a candidate for the premiership.

Earlier this week, Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who is head of Shinseito, was reported to have emerged as the most probable successor to Hosokawa.

Hata is in Marrakech, Morocco, for a ministerial meeting that will conclude with the signing of a treaty on the Uruguay Round of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Hosokawa, 56, suddenly announced his resignation last Friday after a string of financial scandals paralyzed Diet debate on the fiscal 1994 budget over Hosokawa's rejections of opposition demands to summon his financial aides to the Diet to have them testify on the case.

He will remain in office until a replacement is picked.

Lower House Members Support Hata

OW1404145994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1435 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Foreign Minister and Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] head Tsutomu Hata garnered the biggest support as Japan's next prime minister among more than 130 House of Representatives members in a poll released Thursday [14 April].

Nippon Broadcasting System Corp., a Tokyo radio station, said it conducted the survey on Wednesday and Thursday, covering all the 508 lower house members, to ask who is best as Japan's next leader. Of them, 132 lawmakers or 26 percent responded by fax.

The largest number, 61 respondents, picked Hata, followed by 29 who supported Yohei Kono, president of the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), 13 for Tetsuzo Fuwa, presidium chairman of the opposition Japanese Communist Party, and 10 for former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe of the LDP, they said.

Hata, head of Shinseito, a core component in the seven-party coalition, is already thought to be the most likely candidate to succeed Hosokawa.

Hata gained support from members of ruling parties including the Social Democratic Party, Shinseito, Komeito [Clean Government Party] and the Japan New Party, but Kono and Fuwa were backed only by members of their parties, the poll showed.

Those who backed Hata said he is appropriate for premiership because he has served in many ministerial posts, is eager for political reform and has a fine character, it said.

Supporters for Kono said he should be premier because he is head of the largest single party in the Diet and because he says Japan should keep its war-renouncing constitution.

Those who cited Watanabe said he has leadership skills and is knowledgeable about the economy.

Watanabe on 'Strong Interest'

OW1404050794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0501 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, an influential figure in the top opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), on Thursday reaffirmed his strong interest in succeeding outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

"I'm watching whether (the ruling coalition parties) will be able to adjust their policies while sticking to the coalition framework," Watanabe told reporters.

He also said he wanted to appeal to the people to rescue the country from difficulties, and said party or faction ambitions should be put aside to this end.

On possible talks with LDP President Yohei Kono, who has vowed to run in the premiership race in the Diet as the party's candidate, Watanabe reacted reluctantly, saying "now is not the time to meet with him."

Watanabe's bid to become prime minister has brought the LDP to the verge of a major split, political sources said.

Watanabe's faction, which is beefing up its campaign to promote their leader as a successor to Hosokawa, meanwhile has rallied some 50 House of Representatives lawmakers of the LDP, including 36 of its 45 faction members, behind Watanabe, faction sources said.

The faction, the fourth largest among the LDP's five factions, is aiming to collect signatures from some 100 LDP members of the powerful lower house, supporting a call for faction members to back Watanabe, they said.

The leading opposition party holds 219 seats in the 511-member lower chamber.

Shinseito and Komeito, two of the key parties in the ruling coalition, once deemed Watanabe as the leader of a possible new coalition grouping, because of his political savvy and influence, political sources said.

Although Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who heads Shinseito, has emerged as the most likely successor to Hosokawa, the seven ruling coalition parties remain divided over the process by which a new premier will be selected.

Mori Opposes Watanabe's Bid

OW1404085694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0844 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Yoshiro Mori said Thursday [14 April] that party members appear to support President Yohei Kono as candidate for the next premier, and suggested former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe give up his bid.

Speaking to a luncheon of business executives at a Tokyo hotel, Mori also said passage of the fiscal 1994 budget, which includes public works spending and a tax reduction to stimulate the economy, could be delayed until July.

The business community has expressed concern that squabbling over finding a replacement for Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa could further postpone the budget, and put a damper on an emerging economic recovery.

The opposition leader said the LDP does not want to see two of its members vie for the premiership, and party consensus is a prerequisite if the LDP is to back Watanabe instead of LDP President Yohei Kono.

Kono said Tuesday he plans to run in the Diet race, and there apparently is only minor opposition within the LDP to his candidacy, Mori said.

On Thursday, however, Watanabe collected some 50 signatures from LDP legislators in the House of Representatives supporting his bid.

Mori voiced strong displeasure that Watanabe may be in communication with Shinseitc [Japan Renewal Party] and the buddhist-backed Komeito over forming a new conservative grouping.

He said the LDP could not cooperate with a Watanabe administration supported by such a coalition because of objections from religious groups that support the LDP. Mori suggested that Kono and Watanabe meet to agree on a single LDP candidate.

Komeito Urges Party Officials Meet

OW1404053694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0529 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—A key ruling coalition official proposed Thursday [14 April] holding a joint meeting of party chiefs and secretaries general to break a deadlock on the nomination of a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Yuichi Ichikawa, secretary general of Komeito, told reporters he made the proposal at a meeting of coalition executives Thursday morning.

New party Sakigake, headed by Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura, boycotted the morning session.

Sakigake has insisted that party leaders, and not the party executives, should discuss the framework of a new coalition government and a candidate to succeed Hosokawa.

Heads of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and Sakigake agreed earlier in the day that a breakthrough should be sought through a meeting of party chiefs, SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo told a news conference.

The three parties earlier called for a forum of the seven coalition party leaders to select a new premier but Shinseito, Komeito, and Hosokawa's Japan New Party (JNP) rejected the bid.

Kubo said he reported Sakigake's renewed call for a meeting of coalition heads to the other secretaries general at Thursday morning's gathering. He said the executives will resume talks on the selection of a new premier in the evening.

The secretaries general of the ruling parties had earlier agreed to avert a split in the eight-month-old coalition and form a new government under the present framework.

Following that agreement, Foreign Minister and concurrently Deputy Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata emerged as the most likely successor to Hosokawa. Hata heads Shinseito, a key party in the coalition.

Takemura, however, has expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed selection process.

He said in TV interviews Wednesday night that he considered it important to establish a democratic system of decision-making within the coalition.

Takemura also urged the coalition partners to synchronize their basic policies, decide on the framework of a new coalition government, and select a candidate for the premiership.

Differences have surfaced between Takemura and Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, who is regarded as the behind-the- scenes strategist of the coalition.

Hata is in Marrakech, Morocco, for a ministerial meeting that will conclude with the signing of a treaty on the Uruguay round of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

He told reporters on his way there that the coalition is moving to maintain the coalition framework, and said the next prime minister will be selected in the Diet early next week.

Hosokawa, 56, suddenly announced his resignation last Friday after Diet debate on the fiscal 1994 budget broke down over allegations of financial impropriety by the premier. He will remain in office until a replacement is picked.

Business Leader Expresses 'Fears'

OW1404051594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0504 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Kanazawa, April 14 KYODO—A business leader on Thursday [14 April] expressed fears that a delay in the selection of a successor to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa could smother the first signs of an economic recovery.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), told a news conference in this city on the Japan sea coast, "I'm concerned that a political vacuum, if prolonged, would further delay passage of (the fiscal 1994 national) budget."

The current domestic political turmoil was caused by Hosokawa's abrupt announcement last Friday that he will step down.

The ruling coalition is seeking a successor to Hosokawa but has yet to reach agreement, although the latest indications are that Tsutomu Hata, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, is widely viewed as the most likely successor.

Hayami noted that housing construction and sales of some consumer electrical machines, such as refrigerators and washing machines, are growing markedly.

The improved showing apparently stems from the favorable effects of a supplementary budget for fiscal 1993 which ended March 31, he said.

"Japanese business confidence is edging forward, reflecting an upturn in the U.S. and Asian economies," Hayami said.

The business leader expressed regret that Hosokawa is leaving his post before carrying through political reform and said he hopes that his successor will continue to push for such reform as a major task of the new administration.

Sakigake Threatens To Leave Ruling Coalition

OW1404151994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1510 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—New party Sakigake [Harbinger Party] leader Masayoshi Takemura threatened Thursday [14 April] to break away from the eight-month-old ruling coalition.

Takemura, appearing on TV ASAHI's "News Station" program, said, "nowadays, some politicians say the coalition should expel Sakigake or the Social Democratic Party (SDP), so our party has come to be regarded as fragile."

"Our party does not have an unconditional desire to remain in the government," whatever humiliation it may suffer, said Takemura, who has exerted his influence as the chief cabinet secretary under Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who announced last Friday he is resigning.

"Because we have that resolve (to splinter if necessary), we are now speaking our mind," said Takemura, leader of a small coalition component formed by 15 members of the 511-seat House of Representatives.

But Takemura hinted that if the coalition's majority group led by Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] stop trying to marginalize him, Sakigake is ready to continue to put its weight behind the coalition to keep it in power.

His comments came as the three-way caucus of Sakigake, the SDP and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) is confronting the Shinseito-led camp that includes Komeito [Clean Government Party] and Hosokawa's Japan New Party over who should be the next premier.

Takemura has reportedly been squabbling with Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, who is regarded as the coalition's most influential politician, over who should take the role of the behind-the-scenes fixer in deciding the course of the coalition government.

"I believe neither our side nor their camp think we may allow the coalition to dissolve," Takemura said.

"I do not want to allow the current combination of coalition parties to crumble, either," he said. "I do not dislike Mr. Ozawa and I believe we can get along with each other."

"However, his repentance and readiness to restart is necessary," Takemura said.

Murayama Opposes Kubo Plan on Reconciliation

OW1404152794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1520 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 15 KYODO—The leader of the coalition's largest party on Thursday [14 April] balked at a

proposal by the party's No. 2 man to give the authority to discuss how to reconcile intraparty policy differences to the coalition's deputy chiefs.

Social Democratic Party (SDP) [Social Democratic Party of Japan—SDPJ] Chairman Tomiichi Murayama told reporters, "I can never approve of that proposal" by SDP Secretary General Wataru Kubo to allow the secretaries general of the coalition to hold substantial discussion on narrowing an intraparty gulf over key policies, such as defense and diplomacy.

Kubo advanced the proposal as the chairman of get-togethers of the deputy chiefs of the coalition partners.

Murayama's remark came a day after key coalition strategist Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the core coalition party Shinseito [Japan Renewal party], called for bridging intracoalition gaps over four key policy fields, including Japan's stand on the suspected North Korean nuclear weapons program.

The other three fields are Japan's tax system reform, basic defense and foreign policies as well as administrative reform combined with deregulation.

Murayama dismissed the rumors rift with Kubo, saying the SDP secretary general merely "advanced the proposal as the chairman of meetings of the secretaries general as a tentative step."

"There are no differences between me and Mr. Kubo," Murayama said.

Ozawa and Kubo respectively put forward calls for reconciling the intra-alliance gaps after Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's seven-party alliance went through various crises and turbulence due to policy differences over the past eight months.

Vice Ministers Seek Quick Government Formation

OW1404025894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0230 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Parliamentary vice ministers on Thursday [14 April] urged the rapid formation of a new government, under the current coalition framework, to tackle a host of pressing political tasks, a government spokesman said.

They unanimously adopted, at their regular meeting, a resolution calling for the early installation of a new administration, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Hatoyama told a news conference.

The accord also calls for early Diet approval of the already overdue budget for fiscal 1994, which began April 1, Hatoyama said.

Parliamentary Vice Construction Minister Eisei Ito proposed that an agreement should be reached to end the political turmoil which has resulted from Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's sudden decision to resign last Friday, he explained.

Hatoyama spoke of the need for the ruling parties to synchronize their basic policies, particularly on some issues of immediate concern, as a prerequisite for the formation of a new coalition government.

"Without such a policy consensus, the new government will face a crisis sooner or later," he said.

Court Rejects Nakamura Bail Appeal Third Time

OW1404112494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1049 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—The Tokyo District Court rejected Thursday [14 April] an appeal from former Construction Minister Kishiro Nakamura against a judge's decision Wednesday not to release him on bail, Nakamura's defense attorneys said.

The three-judge panel acted on an appeal from Nakamura who had asked for bail so he can take part in a Diet vote to pick a successor to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who announced his resignation last Friday. But no date has been set for the Diet vote yet.

Nakamura, 45, an independent member of the House of Representatives, has been detained at the Tokyo detention house since mid-March after prosecutors arrested him on suspicion of taking a 10 million yen bribe from leading general contractor Kajima Corp.

Prosecutors indicted Nakamura on April 1 on charges of taking the bribe on January 13, 1992, from Shinji Kiyoyama, then vice president of Kajima.

The Tokyo District Court did not state its reasons for the latest rejection.

Nakamura's first bail application was dismissed last Tuesday on the grounds he might destroy evidence.

Nakamura's latest appeal was a "junkoku" appeal which can be filed with a three-judge panel at a district court. It is a legal recourse available under the Code of Criminal Procedure when the defense claims it is dissatisfied with a decision by a single judge.

Nakamura is the sole Diet member implicated in connection with an influence-peddling scandal surrounding the country's leading construction contractors.

He quit the Liberal Democratic Party just before his arrest and is currently an independent member of the lower house.

If found guilty, Nakamura could face up to five years in prison, according to the penal code.

Shirai on Admonishing Broadcasting Bureau Chief

OW1404140394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1343 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Futoshi Shirai, administrative vice minister of posts and telecommunications, said Thursday [14 April] he will admonish the ministry's broadcasting bureau chief for inadvertent remarks on

action that might be taken against telecasting companies which made erroneous forecasts of poll results in last July's general election. Shirai made the remark in a press conference, commenting on what was said by Akimasa Egawa in a press conference Monday.

The bureau chief told the press some broadcasting companies had reported that certain candidates were considered safe bets for election, but that several of them were found later to have been unsuccessful.

Egawa said some administrative action, such as admonition, verbal or in writing, will be given to such companies.

The vice minister said his ministry will decide whether or not to ask the companies to be more careful in making forecasts while giving due consideration to freedom in editing programs.

German Rate Cut 'Helpful' to World Economy

OW1404135394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1320 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—A cut in key lending rates by the German Bundesbank will stimulate Germany's economy and will be generally helpful for the world economy, a Bank of Japan (BOJ) source said Thursday [14 April].

Japanese financial market sources expressed surprise at reports out of Frankfurt on the rate cut, but said the scale is small and unlikely to affect foreign exchanges.

In Frankfurt, the German central bank announced it will slash its discount rate to 5.00 percent from 5.25 percent per annum, and the Lombard rate to 6.50 percent from 6.75 percent per annum, effective from Friday.

Mieno: Economy Ready 'To Snap Out' of Recession

OW1404065294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0648 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Japan's two top financial officials indicated in speeches Thursday that the domestic economy is poised to snap out of its three-year-old recession.

Addressing an annual convention of trust bankers, Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii and Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said a recovery is in sight on the heels of the latest stimulus measures.

"The economy is showing signs of hitting bottom," Mieno said, indicating a firmer view than his latest press comments by dropping off the phrase "on the whole."

In a press conference last week, the central bank chief described the economy as "showing signs of hitting bottom on the whole" and said his assessment is "changing delicately."

Fujii said, "the time is steadily ripening for the economy to recover...although tough conditions are still continuing." The finance minister earlier said the economy is in "a delicate stage" and statistics to date "have not yet proved the economy has hit bottom."

Both Fujii and Mieno cited improvements, led by personal consumption, since early this year.

Mieno, stressing that conditions had improved since last year, also said, "various positive factors for an economic recovery have increased over the past year."

Japan's economy last year suffered unexpected downward drags such as the yen's sharp appreciation and unusually cool and wet summer, causing it to fall off after showing signs of recovery.

Mieno particularly cited progressing inventory adjustments and corporate restructuring, support from fiscal and monetary measures, and recent recovery in economies abroad.

Fujii said he is confident that the economy-oriented budget for fiscal 1994 and the record 15.25 trillion yen stimulus package launched in February will "greatly contribute" to putting the economy on a full recovery track soon in the current fiscal year.

Meanwhile, Mieno noted some prevailing concerns, such as spreading labor cutbacks, a possible further rise of the yen, and ongoing write-offs of losses incurred by financial institutions and companies after the collapse of the economic bubble of the late 1980s.

Keeping in mind these possible downward pressures, Mieno said, "a further cautious watch is necessary" to see if the improvement in some areas is sustainable and can spread to overall business activities. He said he will carefully monitor monetary and economic developments.

Considering liquidation of bad loans, both Fujii and Mieno gave high marks to voluntary efforts by financial institutions, and called for further moves in line with market and other deregulatory steps taken recently by the financial authorities.

Land Price Controls Eased by Local Governments

OW1404105894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Nearly 70 percent of the nation's prefectural and major city governments have loosened controls on land prices and deregulated land transactions, the National Land Agency said Thursday [14 April].

A total of 39 local governments—29 of Japan's 47 prefectures and 10 of its 12 ordinance-designated cities—eased such controls as of April 1, agency officials said.

Five or six local governments are expected to follow suit by the end of May, the officials said.

All prefectures, except Aomori in northeast Japan, and all 12 ordinance-designated cities established systems to monitor local land prices after they experienced skyrocketing prices in the booming economy in the 1980s.

They have obliged those who trade land of more than a certain acreage to report the transaction to the local authority.

Such relaxations followed an agency instruction last November that local governments deregulate land transactions to help stimulate the sluggish economy.

The local governments may have believed that drops in land prices indicated strict controls were no longer needed, they said. A government report released last month said Japan's land prices in 1993 dropped for the third consecutive year.

In most cases, only those who buy or sell 300 square meters or more are obliged to report the transactions to the local government, while the previous requirement applied to 100 square meters or more.

Gunma Prefecture northwest of Tokyo is the only prefecture that scrapped all prefectural areas under such control.

It is expected that more than 10 local governments will not ease controls, including Nagano Prefecture, where land prices may rise in line with the hosting of the 1998 Winter Olympics, they said.

Wholesale Price Index Said Down in Mar

OW1404104394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Japan's wholesale prices fell 0.2 percent in March from the previous month for the second straight monthly drop and 2.9 percent from a year before, the Bank of Japan reported Thursday [14 April].

The overall Wholesale Price Index (WPI) was 93.3 against the base of 100 for 1990.

In February, the WPI fell 0.5 percent on a monthly basis.

The wholesale price index also fell 3.2 percent in the business year ended March 31, 1994, for the third consecutive yearly decline.

Domestic wholesale prices in March inched down 0.2 percent from February and declined 2.0 percent from the year before.

Export prices gained 0.1 percent from February on a contract currency basis, falling 0.4 percent in terms of yen.

Import prices rose 0.6 percent from the month before on a contract currency basis but decreased 0.3 percent in terms of yen.

The U.S. dollar averaged 105.13 yen against the Japanese currency, down 1.1 yen from February and down 10.2 yen from the same month a year before.

A Bank of Japan official said lower iron and steel prices accounted for about a third of the monthly drop of the domestic WPI. Sluggish demand in the construction and auto industries and inventory liquidation at the fiscal year-end helped push down iron and steel prices, he said.

Lower prices for oil products amid softer crude oil value and a price drop in electric appliances also led to softening the domestic WPI, he said.

Nevertheless, the stability of domestic WPI remains unchanged, he said.

Export WPI gained on a contract currency basis on higher prices in machineries, but dropped in terms of yen, reflecting the appreciation of the yen against major currencies.

Import WPI gained ground on higher metal and textile prices on a contract currency basis despite lower crude oil values.

Rice prices gained 0.1 percent from February, the official said.

Domestic WPI for fiscal 1993 shed 1.8 percent, slipping for the second successive year. The Bank of Japan said it was due to lower prices of iron and steel, oil products and electric appliances.

Export WPI in terms of yen retreated 8.1 percent to mark the biggest drop since the 13.3 percent of fiscal 1986. On a contract currency basis, the stronger yen and the resultant rise of automobile prices boosted the index by 2.9 percent.

In fiscal 1993, the dollar averaged at 107.85 yen, jumping 13.6 percent from the year before.

Import WPI in terms of yen fell 12.4 percent, posting the largest decline since 37.3 percent of fiscal 1986. On a contract currency basis, lower oil and natural gas prices contributed to bringing down the index by 1.0 percent.

Kato: Tax Increase Needed for Aging Society

OW1404083694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0811 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—A consumption tax hike is needed to finance a possible increase in social security costs in the face of Japan's rapidly aging society, the chief of a key government advisory panel on tax affairs said.

Kan Kato, chairman of the Tax Commission, said his panel will provide options such as a hike in the controversial consumption tax, an increase in social insurance premiums or no raise in social security costs to meet an aging society.

"But it will be understood naturally the best way is a raise in the consumption tax," Kato said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

The issue of how to respond to the nation's aging population with tax measures has been in the spotlight for some time. Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa failed two months ago to sell a proposal to introduce a national welfare tax to fund more than welfare alone.

The Finance Ministry has been pushing for a hike in the consumption tax as a way to raise funds to meet the needs of an aging society. Kato is viewed as close to Finance Ministry bureaucrats.

Kato, a professor emeritus at Keio University, also points to the need to implement administrative and fiscal reforms and to rectify the heavy dependence on direct taxes for state revenue.

But Kato said no one can expect administrative and fiscal reforms to save government spending in the short run, and a sweeping reform of the so-called unfair taxation system could result in additional tax revenue of only 1 trillion yen.

As for a local consumption tax proposed by the Home Affairs Ministry, Kato said he would like to discuss it in the form of a possible retail tax instead.

He also said his panel will take up the issue of whether or when to introduce a taxpayers' numbering system.

"It's no good to say just 'we'll consider it.' I hope to draw a conclusion on the issue, including whether to introduce it, by setting a deadline," he said.

Steel Output Falls 1.9 Percent in FY '93

OW1404060094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0554 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 KYODO—Japan's crude steel production fell below 100 million tons in fiscal 1993, ended March 31, for the second year in a row, the Japan Iron and Steel Federation said Thursday [14 April].

Japanese steelmakers turned out a total of 97.11 million tons of crude steel, a 1.9 percent fall from the previous year and the smallest volume since fiscal 1986, it said in a report reflecting the weak national economy.

In March alone, crude steel production fell for the sixth straight month of year-to-year declines, sliding 9.8 percent from a year earlier to 7.75 million tons, it said.

The March production volume represents an increase of 7.1 percent from the month before, although March was the fifth consecutive month in which crude steel output fell below 8 million tons.

Crude steel production is viewed as a key economic indicator, as steel products are used for a variety of industrial goods ranging from autos to machinery.

North Korea

UNSC Urged To 'Immediately Revoke' Resolution

SK1404102894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 14 Apr 94

["Arbitrariness and Partiality Cannot Work"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The United States is resorting to arbitrariness and high-handedness under the pretext of "nuclear non-proliferation" and the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] are playing into the hands of the United States.

Commenting on this, MINJU CHOSON today says:

After agreeing to and making public four simultaneous actions with the DPRK, the United States totally reneged its promise, raising unreasonable preconditions, while some officials of the IAEA adopted a "resolution" urging the DPRK to allow it to complete the "unfinished" inspection and the UN Security Council discussed the issue of the DPRK on the basis of its "conclusion" and issued even a "presidential statement."

The high-handedness of the United States and the behavior of the UN Security Council and the IAEA grossly contradict the spirit of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and seriously damage the mission of the international organizations to which impartiality is indispensable.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula cropped up when the United States massively deployed nuclear weapons in South Korea and began scheming a nuclear war against the DPRK.

The solution of the issue is possible only when the United States keeps the promise it made to the DPRK and withdraws from South Korea, taking along all the nuclear weapons.

The UN Security Council and the IAEA must apologize to the Korean people for their criminal acts and immediately revoke the unjustifiable "presidential statement" and "resolution." And they must not become a target of worldwide criticism and denunciation by playing into the hands of a big power but observe the principle of impartiality conforming to their intrinsic mission.

Hanchongnyon's Plans for 16 Apr Rally Noted

SK1404044494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), a vanguard organization of one million students of South Korea, called a press conference in Seoul on April 12 and announced that the second pan-national rally against farm market opening will be held on April 16 jointly with opposition organizations including the headquarters of the pan-national movement for the protection of our rice, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The first pan-national rally was held on April 9.

Hanchongnyon declared that it will appoint ten delegates among the students now on a hunger strike in the Myongdong Cathedral and send them to Chongwadae [presidential offices] to convey to the traitor Kim Yong-sam a letter urging the re-negotiation of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks and opposition to the signing of the final act of the Uruguay Round.

People of various strata of South Korea are waging a struggle with united force to smash the treacherous opening of the farm market by the Kim Yong-sam traitor clique.

ROK Denounced for Rejecting Liaison Proposal

SK1404061594 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1223 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Commentary by Kim Ho-sam: "The Unreasonable Act That Revealed the True Antidialogue and Antireunification Nature"]

[Text] As was already reported, a joint conference of the republic's government, political parties, and social organizations was held in Pyongyang on 11 April to reunify the fatherland through unity of the whole nation by highly upholding the banner of great national unity. The issue of promoting the country's independent and peaceful reunification by thoroughly fulfilling the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation for the fatherland's reunification put forth by Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our people, was discussed at the joint conference.

It was initiated at the joint conference that by putting the nation's interest in the forefront, all the people of the North, South, and overseas must most of all convene a historical national conference in either Pyongyang or Seoul to provide a measure for great national unity at around 15 August which is one year before the 50th anniversary of the fatherland's liberation, to open the doors for the country's independent and peaceful reunification by uniting as one. We decided to send a letter courteously putting forth such a proposal to the South Korean authorities, as well as to political parties, organizations, individual figures, and fellow countrymen overseas.

However, since the South side said that it could not receive such a letter, giving unreasonable excuses, it was necessary for us to broadcast the letter. Such a measure by the South Korean authorities is indeed an act of betrayal, throwing a wet blanket over the will and demand of all the Korean people's consistent desire for the country's reunification.

There is no greater responsibility and important matter of concern than realizing the country's reunification in the nineties for its 70 million people. Whether in the North, South, or overseas, our people today are saying that we can no longer live separated. They thus cry out for the country's reunification.

Amid this kind of trend of the times, conscientious politicians and figures from all walks of life in South Korea have recently begun openly expressing their will to visit Pyongyang for the nation's reconciliation and reunification. If the letter to the South Korean authorities, political parties, organizations, individual figures, and overseas fellow countrymen is delivered to such parties and the joint conference of the republic's government, political parties, and social organizations, and the representatives meet at one place, it is clear that this itself will be a historical opportunity to provide a great turning point in the nation's reconciliation and unity.

However, the South Korean authorities object even to receiving our letter, which is filled with the patriotic will for reunification. Where can a greater antinational and antireunification act as this be found?

The South Korean authorities' unreasonable act leaves much room to prove that traitor Kim Yong-sam's promise that priority must be given to the nation and that he will whole-heartedly concentrate on the nation's reconciliation and reunification, is filled with falsehood and hypocrisy.

The new operation 5027, a plan to attack our republic, which has been kept a secret by the South Korean puppets, has now been made public, and they are showing moves to drag in much murderous equipment, such as Patriot missiles from the United States, and resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise. This means that our nation must achieve great unity at this time more than at any other time to prevent the danger of a nuclear war.

In this kind of situation, our people must solve problems facing the nation under the banner of great national unity and from the principle of national independence. If this is to be achieved, the will and demands of the 70 million people must all focus on the great cause for the fatherland's reunification, and private-level dialogue must be activated so that it can spread to a pannational level.

Nevertheless, like the examples of preceding dictators, the South Korean Kim Yong-sam puppet regime is insisting on a single channel of dialogue as usual, is monopolizing reunification dialogue, and is preventing the broad masses from participating in the reunification dialogue from various aspects. Such antidialogue and antireunification maneuvers by the South Korean puppets will by no means be tolerated.

The South Korean puppets once again rejected our just proposal. This once again clearly shows that they are in reality the ones who have no interest in dialogue and reunification and that they are splittists pursuing only confrontation and war. Such an act betraying the nation by the South Korean authorities can no longer be tolerated.

If the South Korean authorities continue to move toward the road of antidialogue and antireunification while rejecting all the Korean people's desire and will consistently demanding the country's reunification, they will receive the people's severe judgment without fail.

ROK Urged To Attend 'Historic' Conference

SK1404053094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—Papers here today voice support for the convocation of a national conference to seek a way for the great unity of the whole nation on the occasion of the forthcoming August 15 liberation day, which was proposed by a joint meeting of the DPRK Government, political parties and public organisations of April 11. They praise it as a patriotic initiative to promote the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

In a commentary titled "Patriotic Initiative for Great National Unity" NODONG SINMUN declares it is an urgent matter to achieve great national unity through the implementation of the ten-point programme of the great

unity of the whole nation in view of the grave situation caused by outside forces and their zealous followers, the flunkeyist traitors.

The news analyst says:

If our nation fails to achieve harmony and unity under the acute and strained situation, it will unavoidably suffer the disaster of a nuclear war and fall a victim to outside forces.

When a historic national conference is convened as proposed by the North, the convocation itself will mean a big stride toward reconciliation and unity and it will be possible to attain national unity and find a way of achieving peace in the country and reunifying the country in the 1990s through unconventional and open- hearted exchange of views.

If the conference is to be convened, it is important to create a climate and conditions for it. The South Korean authorities must renounce the policy of depending on outside forces, take the position of national independence and stop all sorts of confrontation and war moves aimed at hurting and attacking fellow countrymen with the help of outside forces. They must scrap the "National Security Law" and other fascist laws and give up such things as "unified channel of dialogue" intended to monopolize dialogue.

What position one takes toward the national conference, which would be an epoch-making event in the history of national reunification, is a criterion distinguishing whether one wants national unity and reunification, or not.

An analyst of MINJU CHOSON emphasizes that if the South Korean authorities want the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, they must positively respond to the proposal for the convocation of a national conference.

Kim Yong-sun Talks With Former Foreign Leaders

SK1304153094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Talks were held between officials of the Reunification Policy Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and former heads of state and government and politicians of different countries at the People's Palace of Culture today.

Present on the Korean side were Kim Yong-son, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Reunification Policy Committee of the SPA; Yi Chong-hyok, senior councillor of the Reunification Policy Committee of the SPA; Song Ho-kyong, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs and director of the Disarmament and Peace Institute of the DPRK; O Mun-han, vice-chairman of the Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries; and other officials concerned.

Present on the opposite side were ex-president of Costa Rica Rodrigo Carazo Odio, former Governor-General of Canada Edward Schreyer, former Prime Minister of Egypt Aziz Sedky, former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of France, member of the European Parliament and Chairman of the Union of Independentists General of the Army Jeannou Lacaze, former member of the Parliament of France and member of the European Parliament Pierro Ceyrac, Senior Vice- President of the Center for Strategic and International Studies of the United States William Taylor, Senior Vice-President of the CNN International Eason Jordan, Executive Director of the Summit Council for World Peace Antonio Betancourt, Director of Research of the Summit Council for World Peace Mark P. Barry, former senior advisor to the assistant secretary of state for human rights of the United States James Zumwalt, Managing Editor of THE WASHINGTON TIMES Josette Shiner, executive director of WASHINGTON TIMES photo agency Victoria Yokota, President Hirogtsu Ota and Vice-president Togashi Takayoshi of the Summit Council for World Strategy of Japan and others.

Kim Yong-son informed the opposite side of the situation of Korea and the stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea toward national reunification and the DPRK-U.S. relations and its foreign policy.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Discusses U.S. Talks, Ties

SK1304153394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1524 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Reunification Policy Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, at the talks held here today between officials of the SPA Reunification Policy Committee and former heads of state and government and politicians of different countries, informed the guests of the situation of Korea and the DPRK's stand toward national reunification and the DPRK-U.S. relations and its foreign policy.

"Our singlehearted unity of the whole society is the most valuable wealth of ours and nothing can break it," he said.

Noting that a powerful independent national economy had been built in the DPRK, he said:

"Some people are now threatening to impose 'economic blockade' on us. But it does not work with us."

"Powerful self-defence capacities have been built up with the chuche idea applied in the field of national defence," he said, and added:

"The nature of our-style socialism centred on the popular masses in which the chuche idea has been applied is peace. But, it is ready to cope with the situation when our sovereignty is violated or the supreme interests of the country encroached on.

"It is attributable entirely to the great ideology and the great leadership that everything is going well in our country.

"The leader devotes himself to the popular masses and the latter remains faithful to the former. So, it is natural that everything is going well. It is the steel-like faith of our people that they will surely win as they are guided by Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander."

Kim Yong-sun continued:

"We constantly maintain that the question of national reunification should be solved independently and peacefully on the principle of great national unity.

"If the national reunification question is to be resolved, many issues must be solved. First of all, peace must be ensured on the Korean peninsula. To this end, disarmament must be achieved and problems solved between the DPRK and the United States."

Recalling that the United States had reversed the agreed conclusions reached at the DPRK-U.S. talks and the New York contacts and aggravated the situation in a bid to stifle the DPRK under the pretext of the "nuclear suspicion," he said:

"We want to solve the issue through negotiations with the United States with patience. If the United States persistently sought a solution with strength, however, we will be left with no other choice but to do our own way.

"It will be favourable to the United States itself that it look squarely at the world tending toward diversification and the changing situation and act with discretion.

"The basic idea of the foreign policy of our party and the DPRK Government is independence, peace and friendship. We will as ever consistently implement this policy."

The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

U.S. Deployment of Military Airplanes Denounced

SK1304141894 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] According to a military source, the U.S. imperialists on 10 and 11 April mobilized and deployed 20-odd military planes of various types in South Korea from overseas bases, thus committing a crime.

Formations of assault planes and pursuit-assault planes that took off from bases in Japan on 11 April flew into U.S. Air Force bases in South Korea. Prior to this, on 10 April, various types of military aircraft, including F-15, F-4, FA-18, AV-8 and EA-6, were mobilized and deployed to South Korea from U.S. bases in Japan and the Pacific area.

In addition, on 10 and 11 April, C-5 ultra-large strategic transport airplanes carrying a large number of troops and lethal equipment from bases on the U.S. mainland and the Pacific region and C-130 and C-141 transport airplanes landed in U.S. Air Force bases in South Korea and airlifted troops were mobilized and deployed to the operational zones and war equipment was supplied to these zones.

Our people and the People's Army are watching with vigilance the war preparation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets. If the rascals perpetrate an act of aggression, we will deal a resolute punishment to them.

1986 U.S. 'Brutal Bombing Raid' on Libya Viewed

SK1404105094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 14 Apr 94

["Cause of Libyan People Cannot Be Obliterated"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article on the lapse of 8 years since the United States Bombed Libya says the United States cannot bring the Libyan people to their knees with any move.

The article goes on:

The brutal bombing raid on Libya by the United States in April 1986 brought to light the heinous nature of the United States which is committing undisguised terrorism under the pretext of "anti- terrorism".

The Libyan people are waging a brave struggle to consolidate the independence of the country and defend sovereignty against the aggression and intervention moves of the United States under the banner of anti-imperialist independence. Disliking this, the United States is taking issue with this country in a far-fetched way to find a pretext for new aggression and intervention. The U.S. vicious anti-Libya campaign is part of the systematic schemings to bring this country to its knees and turn the situation in this region in favour of the execution of its Africa policy.

Today the Libyan people are heightening vigilance against a possible new provocation of the United States.

The Korean people are extending firm solidarity for the Libyan people in their struggle to smash the threat and blockade moves of the imperialists and defend the national dignity and sovereignty.

The United States must stop its anti-Libya campaign.

Hwang Chang-yop at Talks With Brazilians

SK1304050094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Talks between the delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil were held here Tuesday.

Present at the talks on the Korean side were Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WPK Central Committee [C.C.], Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the C.C., WPK, and other officials concerned, and on the opposite side were members of the delegation led by Sergio

Rubens, member of the Political Commission and secretary of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil.

At the talks the sides informed each other of the activities of their parties and exchanged views on a series of matters of common concern.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Anniversary of Foundation of Zimbabwe Marked

SK1304050294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—A meeting commemorating the 14th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of Zimbabwe was held here Tuesday under the auspices of the Korea-Zimbabwe friendship association.

The meeting was attended by Choe Song-suk, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea and chairman of the Korea-Zimbabwe friendship association, other officials concerned and working people in the city.

A message of greetings to the president of the Republic of Zimbabwe was adopted at the meeting.

Kim Il-song Sends Funds to Koreans in Japan

SK1404104594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 14 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song sent again a large sum of educational aid fund and stipends amounting to 104.8 million yen in Japanese currency for the democratic national education of Koreans in Japan. Educational aid fund and stipends sent by him in 127 installments amounts to 42,012,992,433 yen.

Reportage on Kim Il-song's Birthday Gifts

Economic Officials Give Flowers

SK1304121494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1127 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a floral basket and a congratulatory letter from the foreign economic and trade councillors corps in Pyongyang on his birthday.

They were handed to an official concerned today by Evgeny Bilim, trade representative of the Russian Embassy in Pyongyang who is the doyen of the corps.

Diplomatic Corps Gives Flowers

SK1304121394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1126 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song was presented with a floral basket by the diplomatic corps in Pyongyang on his birthday.

It was handed to Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam today by Yasir Farah, Syrian ambassador to Korea, who is the doyen of the diplomatic corps.

PRENSA LATINA Head Gives Gift

SK1304120894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1116 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song was presented with a gift by Pedro Margolles Villanueva, director general of the PRENSA LATINA of Cuba, and his companion visiting Korea.

The gift was handed to an official concerned by the director general.

Art Propaganda Troupe Encourages Working People

SK1304104994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 13 (KCNA)—Agitation for increased production is brisk in all parts of Korea.

The Pyongyang municipal art propaganda troupe is now greatly encouraging working people in the city to register great achievements in carrying out the revolutionary economic strategy shaped by the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK].

Its performance vividly reflects the fruitful efforts of working people to successfully implement the agriculture-first, light industry-first and foreign trade-first policies advanced by the WPK.

The art troupe is calling on them to make this year a year of a historical turn in the revolution and construction by effecting a revolutionary upsurge in socialist economic construction in the spirit with which they crossed the river in flame and marched through the marsh during the rigorous war in the 1950s and in the spirit with which they brought about a great upswing of Chollima in the postwar period when everything had been destroyed.

Art propaganda troupes engaged in agitation for increased production were organized and are now active in all provincial seats. Travelling art propaganda troupes are seen in all counties, factories, enterprises and cooperative farms.

They are encouraging working people to increase production in various forms and ways on cooperative fields bustling with sowing, at consumer goods production bases, power stations, coal mines, railway stations, chemical, metal and building material production sites, housing and other construction sites in the capital and deep sea fishing grounds.

Stirring and appealing oral propaganda and introduction of achievements through on-spot broadcasting and by radio cars and loud voices of announcers congratulating innovators are making the whole country replete with revolutionary zeal and spirit.

Agitation troupes made up of artistes and men of the press of the capital and provinces have been dispatched to major sites to powerfully rouse working people in increased production and faster construction.

South Korea

Trade Talks Held With U.S. Trade Representative

SK1404023794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0218 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Marrakesh, Morocco, April 13 (YONHAP)—They are here to sign the new multilateral trade accord, but it was first things first when South Korean and U.S. trade officials met Wednesday to work on bilateral trade issues.

Korean Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su and U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] Mickey Kantor immediately took up the issue of Korea's motor vehicle market.

Kantor presented the unbalanced picture of Koreans exporting over 600,000 cars a year while American exports totaled a mere 1,300 units.

He called for tax cuts and elimination of Korean consumers' prejudice against foreign cars.

Kim responded that Korea's 10-percent tariff on car imports is the lowest after the United States and Japan, and that his government is trying to erase the stigma attached to foreign automobiles by announcing that foreign car owners need not fear tax investigations in February.

He said inter-ministerial discussions were under way on problems concerning car market opening and proposed bilateral negotiations as soon as Korea finalizes its plans.

Kantor demanded that the harmonized tariff rate of 13 percent on dye and petroleum resin products offered in the UR [Uruguay Round] schedule be cut to 6.5 percent.

Kim said he would study the harmonization tariff offers again and offered to discuss the matter afterward.

Kantor showed an interest in the court battle between Korea's Tongyang Confectionery Corp. and America's Warner-Lambert Co. over the "clorets" chewing-gum brand name.

Kim advised that the two governments wait for the trial results as the matter is pending before the Supreme Court.

The row over trademark registration was determined in favor of the American company at the appellate trial board of the Korean industrial property office and now awaits a decision by the Supreme Court.

The two discussed Korea's intellectual property rights status with Washington, which is poised to newly designate watch countries later in the month. Korea wants to be removed from the priority watch list.

Kantor promised to acknowledge Seoul's efforts in intellectual property rights and other trade practices in the USTR National Trade Estimate (NTE).

DPRK Reportedly Asks U.S. To Resume Contact

SK1404025394 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 14 Apr 94 p 2

[Chong Hae-yong reports from Washington]

[Text] North Korea was learnt to have recently proposed to the United States that they resume unofficial working-level contacts to discuss means for a breakthrough in the nuclear issue. This comes at a time when the United States has beefed up firm actions against North Korea's unwillingness to accept nuclear inspections, through consecutive contacts with the ROK, China, and Japan. The talks, however, are unlikely to be realized by next week since U.S. Defense Secretary Perry and Robert Gallucci, the special envoy on the North Korean nuclear issue, will be visiting the ROK, China, and Japan. North Korea also does not usually make moves before or after Kim Il-song's birthday on 15 April.

A high-level U.S. source on 13 April assessed that North Korea propceed the contact to determine the true intentions of the United States since the United States and the ROK have taken active moves with China, Japan, and Russia aimed at strengthening the international cooperative system following the adoption of the UN Security Council President's statement calling on North Korea to accept inspections. North Korea apparently hopes to resume contacts in order to open a dialogue channel with the United States prior to the next phase of action the UN Security Council may pursue following the early May deadline in the Council President's statement, the source added.

Blix: DPRK Building Another Reprocessing Plant

SK1404103994 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1010 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] In his interview with the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI SHIMBUN, Hans Blix, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], confirmed that North Korea is now constructing another nuclear reprocessing facility within the complex of nuclear facilities in Yongbyon.

In an interview with the paper, Director-General Hans Blix, who is now staying in Japan, said that he could not know when the facility would be completed, but when it is built, North Korea's capacity of producing plutonium—which will be used for a nuclear weapons program—would double.

Director-General Blix stressed that the IAEA needs to inspect two nuclear facilities which North Korea did not report to the IAEA before in addition to its overall inspection [chonmyon sachal] of the complex of nuclear facilities in Yongbyon.

ROK, Russia Reach Accord on DPRK Loggers

SK1404125494 Seoul YONHAP in English 1235 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia on Thursday agreed to handle the issue of North

Korean loggers in Russia from the approach of humanitarianism and in deference to their personal wish.

The agreement was reached in a Moscow meeting between visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev.

The two ministers also discussed the question of President Kim Yong-sam's planned visit to Moscow in June.

Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong said in Seoul that during the meeting, Minister Han asked Kozyrev to give positive assistance in case those North Korean loggers who had escaped Pyongyang-run logging yards in Siberia wish to come to South Korea.

"Minister Han also stressed that escaped North Korean loggers should not be repatriated to North Korea against their will, asking Russia to see to it they remain under Russia's legal protection," Hong said.

The vice minister said Minister Kozyrev made it clear that Russia will positively cooperate in having North Korean loggers lawfully go to a country or countries of their choice.

They also agreed on the need to obtain cooperation from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) so as to buttress the fairness and objectivity of the way North Korean loggers will be handled.

On President Kim's official visit to Russia, the two ministers in effect confirmed the time of his visit, June this year, and discussed the agenda topics of a Korea-Russia summit meeting to be held during kim's visit, Vice Minister Hong said.

Seoul To Ask UN To Intervene

SK1404013694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0104 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—Seoul will refer to the UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) in screening North Korean loggers fleeing from Siberian camps to determine whether they are criminal offenders before settling them in South Korea, officials said Thursday.

The government will try to find homes in third countries for those seeking settlement outside South Korea but focus on blocking their repatriation to Pyongyang, also in cooperation with the UNHCR, the officials said.

An inter-ministerial meeting is planned for Friday, when the government is expected to confirm the principle of accepting North Korean loggers escaping from Siberian gulags that reportedly violate human rights.

The South Korean Embassy in Moscow said over 170 escapees have asked to be resettled in Seoul.

President Kim Yong-sam had earlier said his government would not accept the escapees, lest it anger North Korea and aggravate their already strained relations. But he changed his mind and Kim's spokesman announced Wednesday that he has ordered a thorough study on bringing the loggers to the South.

Friday's meeting will discuss various possibilities, focusing on how to screen the escapees to sort out those fleeing punishment for criminal offenses, according to the officials.

One option is to have Moscow perform the screening, but the best method is referral to the UNHCR, one official said.

"Moscow would have a tremendously difficult time in screening the escapees since most of them do not have any form of identification," he said. "For all we know, they may not even be from the logging camps but North Koreans who are in flight in China, or even spies."

"The best way is to have the UNHCR do the job. It would be the most objective, and be less tough than Moscow in screening procedures since it would place humanitarian concerns above political implications," he said.

If some did turn out to be criminal offenders, Seoul would arrange to have them serve time before they are considered for resettlement in South Korea, the official noted.

Seoul will start negotiations with the UN Commissioner soon, including resettlement in countries other than South Korea, he said.

ROK To Raise DPRK Rights Issues at World Forums

SK1404115994 Seoul YONHAP in English 1150 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—The government plans to raise from now on the question of North Koreans' human rights at international organizations, a senior government official said on Thursday.

The policy comes on heels of the recent government decision to handle the question of North Korean loggers in Russia from the approach of humanitarianism, that is, to explore ways to help them.

"The government is studying ways to grasp the comprehensive picture of North Koreans' human rights conditions including those of North Korean loggers in Russia," the official said.

Based on a finding, he said, the government will raise the issue at relevant United Nations agencies and world human rights organizations like the Amnesty International.

The official said the government may also in due course take steps to seek the repatriation of those South Korean fishermen and airplane crew persons being held in North Korea following their seizure by the North Koreans.

He further said he understands that a protest rally is being prepared in Osaka, Japan in connection with the recent missing of two Japanese women who, along with their Korean husbands, had moved to North Korea.

DPRK Refrains From Buying Foreign 'April 15 Gifts'

SK1404015994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0149 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—North Korea has purchased no "April 15 gifts" for its people from other countries this year, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) and business sources said Thursday.

The North used to buy consumer goods from the South and other countries to give to its citizens on Kim Il-song's birthday until last year, KOTRA officials said.

Pyongyang ordered cloth for student uniforms from South Korean businesses late last year but then canceled the order as tension on the peninsula mounted because of the nuclear row, sources said.

A KOTRA official said, "we collected reports from trade offices in many countries and found out that even Thailand, Germany and china, whose trade volumes with North Korea are relatively large, have not sold any 'April 15 gifts.'"

He added that North Korea has purchased few consumer products this year other than some Chinese apples.

"At this time of year in the past, North Korea used to buy a lot of canned pork, cloth and sugar."

An official at the National Unification Board confirmed that no consumer goods have been sold to the North this year.

The official said, "North Korea seems to have decided that it will reduce the program for Kim Il-song's birthday this year due to its economic difficulties."

South Korean businesses sold several million dollars worth of consumer goods to North Korea in 1992 when Kim Il-song celebrated his 80th birthday.

PRC's Qian Qichen Cited on DPRK Issue Progress

SK1404012194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0112 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 14 (YONHAP)—Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, saying the North Korean nuclear issue is heading in the right direction, asserted the problem should be resolved through dialogue, the TOKYO SHIMBUN reported Thursday.

Qian made the remark in an interview with the newspapers's publisher, Kato Kiichiro, at the official Chinese guest house in Beijing.

Qian also said it is understandable that Pyongyang rejected a UN Security Council presidential statement because North Korea opposes the council taking up the nuclear matter. The presidential statement, adopted unanimously by the council, urges North Korea to allow outside inspections of its nuclear facilities.

The North Korean nuclear impasse, nevertheless, is "moving in the right direction bit by bit," Qian was quoted as saying.

He said China favors talks through three channels—between North Korea and the United States, between North and South Korea and between North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Qian said China pushed the Security Council president's statement, which has no binding power, since it is against the United Nations handling the issue.

Asked whether North Korea had nuclear bombs, Qian said he could not be sure. This seemed to indicate a slight change in China's previous position that North Korea has neither the intention nor the ability to develop nuclear weapons, the TOKYO SHIMBUN reported.

PRC To Open Military Attache Office 16 Apr

SK1404085194 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0805 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The Ministry of National Defense said today that a Chinese military attache office will be opened in the ROK on 16 April. General (Jin Hunghen) and Colonel (Shang Kyo) will come to the ROK as military attache officers.

The Chinese military attache office will be opened in accordance with an agreement between the ROK and PRC Governments signed in September 1992 to open military attache offices in each capital. In December last year, the ROK opened its military attache office in China.

Regarding this, the Ministry of National Defense said that China's opening of its military attache office in Seoul is an expression of its will not to unilaterally support North Korea's aggravation of tensions on the Korean peninsula, and that this will help ease North Korea's recent will to provoke South Korea.

Signing of 'Friendship Treaty' With PRC Proposed

SK1404020294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0140 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—South Korea has proposed signing a friendship treaty with China, North Korea's staunchest ally, during policy planning talks in Beijing, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

Yi Chang-chun, assistant minister for policy planning, suggested that the two countries sign a friendship pact to lay a firmer groundwork for bilateral relations, officials said.

Yi is in Beijing for the second South Korea-China Policy Planning Consultations.

Seoul had cautiously suggested a "Beijing declaration" to showcase their budding relations when the two sides normalized ties in August 1992, but the idea died out.

Yi and his Chinese counterpart Pei Yuan Ying discussed joint participation in regional security talks including the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), the officials said.

Contract Signed With PRC To Build Hotel

SK1404065494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0508 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Hong Kong, April 14 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China have signed a contract to build a hotel near Mt. Paekdu on a joint-venture basis, the semi-official China News Service reported Wednesday.

Mt. Paekdu is located on the border between North Korea and China and many South Koreans, who consider it a holy site, like to climb the mountain on the Chinese side.

Samson Enterprises Co. of Korea and Yanbian Tourism Corp. of Jilin Province have agreed to invest 8 million U.S. dollars in building a hotel to accommodate 1,200 guests near Mt. Paekdu.

The project has been approved by the Chinese State Council.

Samson and the Yanbian Tourism Company have set up a joint-venture company to operate the hotel over the coming 50 years and they plan to use the profits to boost farming in Yanbian, largely populated by ethnic Koreans.

'Sangmudae' Funding Increases Tension Within DLP

SK1404011694 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Apr 94 p 2

[By Staff Reporter Kim Song-pok]

[Text] The tension between the rival parties over the suspicion that huge amounts of "political funding" were provided to the ruling party is developing into a queer conflict between the current and former governments and the opposition camp as the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] yesterday accepted the opposition Democratic Party [DP]'s demand for a National Assembly investigation of the allegation.

The problem starts with the donation by the Chongwoo Construction Co., the contractor in a lucrative project to relocate the "Sangmudae" military base in Kwangju, of eight billion won out of a total 22.7 billion won in its "secret chest" to Tonghwa Temple in Taegu, the native place of former president No Tae-u, to build a Buddhist statue in 1992.

The allegation is that 5.6 billion of the eight billion won found its way into the ruling camp as a kickback for the lucrative project after laundering by Buddhist circles.

The DLP's agreement to accept the DP demand is construed as a gesture showing the clean hands of the party and the Kim Yong-sam government. Conversely speaking, the incumbent government is pointing an accusing finger at its predecessor, the No administration.

With the ball smashed into its court, the No's camp appears to be on the alert and, at the same time, giving vent to hard feelings against the Kim administration, saying that Kim is attempting to pass the buck to No.

Under the bashing of skepticism among the people, Chongwadae has reportedly carried out secret in-house probes into Home Minister Choe Hyong-u and exchange-Rep. So Sok-chae, a confidant of President Kim, both suspected of being privy to the political funding.

The reported outcome is that their hands are clean. Instead, the finger is pointing to the No administration.

A DLP key post-holder who is a President Kim protege said on condition of anonymity, "Now that close aides to President Kim have proved to have nothing to do with the scandal, there is no reason for a cover-up."

He added, "Now the opposition camp will playing another boring game with those who were at the core of power during the No government over a past irregularity."

The DLP's agreement to the Assembly action may be aimed at escaping from the political quandary into which it has fallen and, instead, at pitting the opposition party against the No administration.

President Kim Tuesday instructed the ruling party to "face the matter squarely."

Meantime, the No camp, better known as "Yonhui-tong," the name of the area where No lives, is fuming against the Kim government, thinking the current administration is treating it too harshly.

An aide to No who wanted to remain anonymous said sarcastically, "We do not hope to be protected by the current government but this is going too far."

He added he worried that this may become a precedent to find fault with any matter in the past.

The aide also said confidently, "The Assembly's probe will find little."

A senior DLP lawmaker who held a ranking party post during the No government criticized the Kim administration, saying, "Did the Kim government only find out now that the Sangmudae relocation project was carried out during the previous government?"

He added that the attempt to divert public attention, acting as if there had been a deal on political funding during No's days does not befit with the image of the reform-oriented current government.

He also said, "The current government is ignoring the prosecutors' conclusions that the eight billion won was all used for the Buddhist project."

Another former ranking official who served in the No government maintained that Chongwadae and the opposition party are scheming to make the No administration a common target finding an odor in their own houses in connection with the "political funds."

He pointed out the fact that all the presidential candidates attended the dedication ceremony of the giant granite Buddha image built at the Tonghwa Temple.

He added, "If they look into the scandal, they will find that flames will fly in directions they do not expect."

The opposition party throws a skeptical eye at Yi Hyon-u, former chief of presidential security service, and former Sports-Youth Affairs Minister Yi Chin-sam.

Threat of Scandal Said Defused

SK1404083194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0631 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 14 (YONHAP)—A collective sigh of relief is almost audible in the presidential office at Chongwadae these days as politically damaging issues are being brought under control. One of the most serious disputes threatening to disrupt the normal operations of the ruling party and the government was an opposition charge that a huge slush fund, set up by a construction company, may have been channeled into politics during the 1992 presidential campaign.

The threat was defused Wednesday when the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) agreed to invoke parliament's right to investigate the allegation on the "Sangmudae slush fund scam." Also on Wednesday, the Rev. So Ui-hyon announced that he would resign as the powerful chief administrator of the Buddhist Chogye order, opening the way for a peaceful resolution of the violent factional feud between So's followers and reformist monks.

These two developments apparently put President Kim Yong-sam at ease for the first time since he returned from a trip to Japan and China with the stated intention of concentrating on efforts to boost the nation's competitive strength. That is why "the atmospheric depression," as one Chongwadae official put it, seems to be clearing from the Chongwadae area and the chief presidential aides have also "brightened up."

President Kim has maintained that all controversial political issues must be resolved at the National Assembly and not "outside it," as the opposition party had been threatening to do.

The DP had said it would stage "outdoor" rallies and campaigns if the ruling party and the government ignored its calls for probes into the three major "suspicions" including the Samgmudae slush fund scam. The Democratic Party did join student activists and farmers at "outdoor" rallies last weekend, protesting against opening the rice market to imports and demanding renegotiation of the Uruguay Round [UR].

While trying to turn public opinion against the Uruguay Round, the DP vowed that it would build a popular consensus to reject National Assembly ratification of the Uruguay Round accord.

Sensing that the opposition party has managed to generate little public support for its "outdoor" rallies, President Kim is said to be more confident of a breakthrough in the current political impasse.

Kim apparently felt so comfortable with the future political course that he even took time out to attend a professional baseball game in Seoul last Sunday and the Paris Bastille Opera's performance of "Salome" on Tuesday.

The ruling party's agreeing to a parliamentary investigation of the Sangmudae scam was also seen as an expression of the president's confidence, observers say.

President Kim instructed DLP lawmakers to "face the opposition squarely" and tackle the Sangmudae probe with their heads held high when the National Assembly convenes an extraordinary 20-day session for that purpose April 25. Kim wants to show the people that his administration has nothing to do with the Sangmudae scam and once again prove that the first democratically elected government in over 30 years stands on firm moral ground. The president hopes to demonstrate that all issues must be discussed and solved in the National Assembly—the true arena for political negotiation by representatives of the people.

Various political and social woes, all of which threatened to cripple the Kim administration, have cropped up in the past 15 days since Kim's return home, and one Chongwadae official called the period "a succession of nightmares for us." They included frequent "stalling accidents" plaguing a newly opened subway line and allegations of illegal electioneering by Kim's associates, in addition to the UR issue and the violent clashes at Chogye temple. But now the Kim administration is fully awake and in firm control, thanks to Kim's well-known political forte: Staging a frontal attack.

Ahead of the administration lie mountains of problems, none of which will be easy to resolve. Among them are the North Korean nuclear dispute, the question of what to do with escapees from North Korean logging camps in Russia, ratification of the UR accord and wage negotiations with labor unions.

The president and his aides at Chongwadae, brimming with regained confidence, are ready to tackle them one after another, according to Chongwadae insiders.

* Work To Develop CDMA System Accelerates

942C0099A Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 10 Mar 94 p 13

[Article by reporter Kim Hyong-kun]

[Text] The domestic development and commercialization of the CDMA (code division multiple access) digital mobile communication system is expected to move into high gear as Pohang Iron and Steel Company [Posco] (the leading stockholder of the second mobile communication service) and Korea Mobile Telecom (the existing first mobile communication service) are both planning to

actively participate in the development of the CDMA system which will be used by the operator of the second mobile service.

According to the Ministry of Communications and business sources, on 9 March, with the selection process for the operator of the second mobile telephone service nearing the completion stage, Sinsegi Mobile Telecom, Posco's subsidiary, is planning to participate in the domestic development of the CDMA system through the transfer of technical know-how from the American firm Qualcomm, with which it has a technical cooperation agreement and which is the advocate of the CDMA system.

Korea Mobile Telecom, which has been taken over by Sunkyong, also has a plan to gradually introduce the CDMA system and has decided to participate in the development process from the stage of on-site testing of CDMA trial products, scheduled to begin this June, to the stage of commercialization. All this will accelerate an early acquisition of the technical expertise necessary for the domestic development and commercialization of the CDMA system.

In particular, the Electronics Telecommunications Research Institute [ETRI], the main promoter of the CDMA system development, recently signed a $5 million-dollar contract with Qualcomm for the three-stage joint development of low-level detailed designs of the CDMA system.

Pak Hang-ku, head of the mobile communication technology research group, has said: "The three-stage contract calls for designing and developing equipment used in cell sites and the base system, developing mobile terminal equipment, and on-site testing of trial products by this November. These stages constitute the core of the CDMA system development." During this period, he added, companies to build the network equipment will be chosen.

Concerning the CDMA system development plan, Sin Yong-sop, chief of the radio wave technology section of the Communications Ministry, said: "As soon as the operator of the second mobile communication service is selected, it will be made to participate in the CDMA development plan so that it may secure CDMA operating technology and promote procurement of the home-made CDMA system and thus achieve the commercialization of the system as scheduled."

He added that the second carrier will, as Korea Mobile Telecom did, share the CDMA system research and development cost and participate in the system development process from the stage of on-site testing of trial products to that of their commercialization.

The development program for the CDMA system, which will have a decisive impact on the second carrier's schedule to open its service and its business success, was launched in 1989. But it has been marred by some hitches, such as those in the trial production of equipment to be used in base and control stations, caused by a delay in signing technology-related contracts between Qualcomm and the ROK participants in the joint development program.

Despite the success in the theory on the CDMA system, no country in the world has ever applied it to commercial use. For this reason, it is undeniable that there has been skepticism about attempting to commercialize this frontier technology in our country.

The Ministry of Communications adopted the CDMA mode as the domestic standard last June ahead of any other country in the world. Prompted by this decision, our major communication equipment makers, such as Samsung, Goldstar, and Hyundai, led by ETRI, embarked upon the development of the CDMA system and its terminal equipment under a technology contract with Qualcomm. However, in their opinion it would be difficult to achieve the commercialization of the system by the end of 1995 because no testing of a trial product has been conducted yet.

A concerned source said that judging from the pace of development in the past, the commercialization of the CDMA system by the use of domestically available technology is not likely to be realized until 1997. He fears that the second carrier will have to either delay the opening of the service or spend hundreds of billions of yen to buy the whole system and terminal equipment from abroad.

The Ministry of Communications, however, says that with the development project proceeding smoothly, there will be no trouble in commercializing the technology used in the CDMA system, which has a capacity 10 to 20 times greater than the analog system, the only problem being the level of the service that will be offered.

The Ministry of Communications is optimistic about the tempo of the CDMA system development program, which the government and business are pushing with a total investment of 81.1 billion won. According to the ministry, the development of trial commercial products and their test runs will be completed by this September as scheduled; and beginning next March the production of the commercial system will begin, and the commercial service will open in the fourth quarter after going through an on-site testing procedure in the third and fourth quarter.

Judging from the development process until now, overall the local development and commercialization of the CDMA system has no problem, except that there are delays in some particular parts of the development program.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Border Meeting With Indonesia Opens 12 Apr

BK1204150494 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Datuk Mohamed Noh Rajab, parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Land and Cooperatives Development, opened the 24th meeting of the Indonesia-Maiaysia Joint Technical Committee on Demarcation and Survey in Langkawi today.

Following the meeting he told newsmen that the Indonesia-Malaysia common border problem is expected to be completely settled within a period of six years. He said that several areas along the common border, which are difficult for the surveyors to identify, will be completely demarcated by the year 2000. This is possible through close cooperation between the two countries. Last year, the duration for the demarcation and survey work along the common border was increased to seven months annually instead of three months as it was in the past. He said that efforts to settle the problem have to be intensified because even though the joint demarcation project was launched 19 years ago, only 27 percent of the East Kalimatan-Sabah boundary line and 35 percent of the West Kalimantan-Sarawak border have been surveyed and demarcated.

Forestry Bill Revision Reduces Illegal Logging

BK1304095394 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Reports of illegal loggings have dropped dramatically following the adoption of the National Forestry Amendment Act 1993 by all Malaysian states.

The director general of the Forestry Department, Dr. Ismail Awang, said there is a 50-percent drop in the number of cases reported in Pahang, Kelantan, and Perak since the act was enforced in February.

The amended act provides for a maximum 500,000 ringgit, and the mandatory jail term from one to 20 years for those convicted of illegal logging.

Speaking to reporters in Kuala Lumpur, Dr. Ismail said the department had also embarked on a five-year forest management plan as a guide for more practical forest management.

Opposition Leader Questions Central Bank Losses

BK1404115394 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Tanjong) [Democratic Action Party member of parliament from Tanjong] said the "colossal forex [foreign exchange] losses in the last two years had knocked out a big black hole in Bank Negara [Central Bank], not only making it insolvent but also destroying its credibility and authority as a banker and guardian of banks in Malaysia".

He said when Bank Negara's 1992 report was released last year, its Governor Tan Sri Jaffar Hussein denied there was any hole in the bank.

"The report was prepared to admit that the [Malaysian ringgit] RM9.3 billion forex losses were mere 'paper losses' and that Bank Negara's loss was the nation's gain," he said when debating the motion of thanks on the Royal address.

Lim claimed that when Bank Negara's 1993 report was released two weeks ago, there was another exercise to cover up the fact the "hole in Bank Negara had become bigger, and it still denied that there was any hole at all".

Lim said there was a conspiracy of disinformation and misinformation to cover up the real nature, cause and magnitude of Bank Negara's forex losses in the past two years.

"It is not only the greatest financial scandal in Malaysia but also a world-class financial scandal."

Elaborating on his motion which was allowed this afternoon, Lim said the 1992 forex losses were not RM10.1 billion but likely to be RM13.1 billion.

"In 1993, Bank Negara suffered RM5.7 billion in forex losses and RM711 million in net operating loss. Taking into account the RM6.1 billion loss that could be hidden by the revaluation of quoted investments, Bank Negara losses could range from RM6.4 billion to RM12.5 billion."

Taking both years together, he said, Bank Negara could have suffered forex losses ranging from RM16.5 billion to RM25.6 billion. Lim said Finance Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim should not be misled by Bank Negara officials that it could afford up to RM25.6 billion losses in two years because its assets exceeded RM100 billion.

"It is such wrong advice that caused Anwar to come out openly to state last year that the RM10.1 billion in foreign exchange losses suffered by Bank Negara in 1992 were paper losses.

"The additional RM6.4 billion to RM12.5 billion losses suffered by Bank Negara in 1993 have proven Anwar to be wrong that the RM10.1 billion losses are not 'paper losses' but real losses."

Lim called for a Royal Commission of Inquiry to be set up to inquire whether the total Bank Negara forex losses since 1992 could exceed RM30 billion.

He said there was an urgent need for the appointment of a Public Accounts Committee chairman, who should be an opposition Member of Parliament, to inquire into Bank Negara's forex losses.

Cambodia

Ranariddh Welcomes Mahathir, Delegation

BK1404064394 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] A high-ranking 130-person Malaysian delegation led by His Excellency [H.E.] Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir

Mohamed, and his wife, arrived in Phnom Penh this morning for a three-day official visit.

Upon arrival at Pochentong Airport, the delegation was cordially and warmly welcomed by Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister; Princess Norodom Marie Ranariddh; Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister, and wife; Prince Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and international relations; H.E. Sar Kheng, deputy prime minister and co-minister of the interior; and many other officials and ethnic groups.

It is expected that during his visit, Mahathir will have an audience with His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, call on Samdech Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; and hold talks with his counterparts, Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh and Samdech Hun Sen.

The delegation also laid a wreath at the independence monument.

Khmer Rouge Spokesman Denies Pailin Recaptured

BK1404091994 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By Kevin Barrington]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 14 (AFP)—A spokesman for the radical Khmer Rouge in the Cambodian capital denied Thursday reports that the guerrillas had retaken their former headquarters at Pailin in northwest Cambodia.

"Pailin has not yet fallen into our hands, but it has received heavy shelling from [words indistinct] artillery," the Khmer Rouge spokesman, who requested anonymity, told AFP.

"Our troops are continuously moving towards Pailin," the spokesman said from the radical faction's compound adjacent to the capital's royal palace.

A police general in Battambang told AFP by telephone Wednesday that the guerrillas were shelling Pailin, but added that they were only firing two or three rounds a day to try and "disturb our helicopters from landing."

The Khmer Rouge spokesman said the guerrillas rejected an appeal from co-premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen for a cease-fire so that both sides could enjoy the current Khmer New Year festivities.

"How can we accept a cease-fire when they [words indistinct] our necks and force our tongues out of our mouths and destroy all our belongings in Pailin?" he said. "This is not the time for celebrations."

Meanwhile, Prince Ranariddh denied Khmer Rouge claims that guerrillas destroyed two government tanks in fighting around Pailin.

"The Khmer Rouge did not destroy two government tanks," the prince told reporters at a reception to welcome the new year late Wednesday. "We destroyed two Khmer Rouge tanks that they received from China a long time ago."

The tanks were destroyed near O'Lak, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of Pailin. The prince questioned the motivation of those who claimed Pailin had fallen from the government's hands.

THE BANGKOK POST had quoted Thai army sources as saying that the Khmer Rouge recaptured their former "capital" late Tuesday.

A Western diplomat, pointing to the recent heated exchanges between Phnom Penh and Bangkok over Cambodia's allegations of Thai military support for the Khmer Rouge, speculated that Thai officers may have deliberately leaked the news to the press to try to embarrass the government here.

General Nhoek Bun Chhai, deputy chief of the general staff, said the Khmer Rouge, backed by four tanks attacked government border police at O'Lak on Monday. "They came from Thailand and they pushed our forces back one kilometer," he said. [Words indistinct] were not yet known as the police retreated into the jungle with a group of 17 fleeing into Thailand to seek refuge, he said. The prince said the guerrillas attacked because they thought O'Lak was an easy target.

"They knew that we thought that place was stable and they knew there was just police based there. So they fought us," he said.

Although the prince did not mention Thailand by name, he backed the general's accusation when he said Wednesday that the tanks attacked from somewhere "not inside Cambodian territory."

The prince acknowledged that the repeated accusations of Thai assistance to the Khmer Rouge were causing aggravation in Bangkok. "Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said his patience was limited" the prince said, adding: "But [words indistinct] is also limited."

The prince, however, said he wanted to have good relations with Thailand and that fellow co-premier Hun Sen would soon visit Bangkok to resolve "border problems." "His Excellency Hun Sen, on behalf of the Royal Government will try again to let our Thai friends know their duty according to the peace agreement," the prince said, referring to the 1991 Paris peace agreement which brought a formal end to the Cambodian conflict and paved the way for UN-organised elections in May last year.

"The agreement mentioned [words indistinct] that Cambodia's three neighbouring countries must protect the sovereignty, integrity and security of the country," he said.

Indonesia

Editorial Views Objectives, Role of G-15

BK1404082094 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 30 Mar 94 p 4

[Editorial: "The Role of the G-15 in the International Situation"]

[Text] Delivering his keynote address at the opening of the Group of 15 (G-15) developing countries summit in New Delhi on 28 March, President Suharto said that the developing countries of the South should pursue a rational and realistic strategy in seeking dialogue with the industrial countries of the North. He said that in seeking dialogue, developing countries should be conscious not only of the aspirations and concerns of the South but also of the interests of the North. The summit, which was officially opened by Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, ended on 30 March.

According to President Suharto, the developing countries of the South should emphasize the spirit of promoting common interests and mutual benefit. This is the only way the G-15 can bring the international economy out of its present disarray and recast the inequitable international structures and practices that have resulted in deepening disparity and injustice in international economic relations.

The views presented to the G-15 summit by President Suharto could be called strategic, although that would put him in a difficult position. This is because the head of state was representing Asian member countries at the summit and was also speaking in his capacity as the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM), which handles several other complex issues.

At the same time President Suharto was carrying out Indonesia's policy toward the G-15. Since the first G-15 summit in Kuala Lumpur in 1990, Indonesia has offered its expertise in three programs: Population development, agriculture and food production, and management to overcome foreign debt problems. Indonesia is ready to send its officials to provide expertise and advice to officials of any G-15 member country that requires such programs.

Now let us refer to the G-15's objectives, spelled out when it was formed in 1990 following the NAM summit in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. One of objectives was to provide developing countries with an opportunity to discuss effectively the basic problems facing the Third World and the relevancy of the NAM. The 10th NAM Summit in Jakarta managed to revitalize the group, thus clearing up doubts about its relevancy in the post-Cold War period following the reconciliation between the superpowers.

Another G-15 objective was to emphasize the effectiveness of the existing group of 77 developing countries, or Third World countries, known as the Group of 77 (G-77). The G-77 represented the developing countries at various international fora. It was hoped that by reducing the G-77 to the G-15, the voices of the developing countries could be channeled more effectively, especially in promoting the long-stagnant North-South dialogue. It was also hoped that, among other things, the G-15 could play a more active role in the international arena.

The G-15 is believed to have the potential to become a consultative partner with the Group of Seven developed countries (G-7) for the steady development of a favorable international environment. The G-15 is expected to produce a working formula to improve South-South cooperation and conduct regular consultative meetings with the industrialized countries of the North, which are attempting to undermine multilateralism in the post-Cold War era. The G-15 should also establish closer cooperation among developing nations and focus its attention on the creation of a world founded on social justice, peace, industrialization, economic cooperation, and sustainable development.

Although the proposed dialogue between the G-15 and the G-7 is expected to be informal, it will be advantageous to the Third World countries.

Apart from that, the G-15 should produce an effective formula on protectionism to protect the trade interests of developing countries following the completion of the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations. The G-15 must seek ways to settle the foreign debt burden faced by developing countries and the UN role in creating peace and sustainable development. It must discuss proposals for restructuring the membership of the United Nations Security Council in line with the changing international scenario.

As the NAM chairman, Indonesia is committed to ensuring that the G-15 continues to place great emphasis on cooperation among developing countries and on international peace, prosperity, and justice. In general, all nations have the confidence to solve global conflicts in a new democratic spirit of partnership through dialogue and negotiation. As a result, the G-15 forum on South-South cooperation and consultation should be intensified so that it becomes an effective instrument to participate in international dialogues and negotiations and achieve its objectives.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Bosnia-Herzegovina

BK1304090694 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The Governments of Indonesia and Bosnia-Herzegovina have officially established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, but the appointment of ambassadors will be decided later. The communique to establish diplomatic ties was signed by Nugroho Wisnuwurti, Indonesian permanent representative to the United Nations, and Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic at UN headquarters in New York on Monday [11 April] afternoon.

The communique said the establishment of diplomatic ties was in response to the two countries' desire to strengthen friendly ties between the two governments and peoples based on equality and mutual respect for each country's sovereignty, integrity, and independence.

*President, Foreign Minister on Nonaligned Movement

94SE0099A Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 11 Feb 94 p 13

[Text] Jakarta (KOMPAS)—Indonesia is prepared to extend temporarily its position as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) if Latin America cannot decide

which country is to be the NAM chairman for the 1995-98 term. Indonesia has been the NAM chairman since September 1992, and its three-year term will end in September 1995.

Thursday night, 10 February, at the Foreign Affairs Department at Pejambon, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas disclosed to reporters the results of the NAM Foreign Ministers Consultative Meeting, held at Pejambon on 9-10 February. The matter of the new NAM chairman is still completely uncertain, since Nicaragua—the only official candidate—has yet to decide its willingness to be the host of the 1995 NAM Summit Conference.

According to Alatas, Indonesia's willingness is a flexible position because it understands the difficulty that Latin America and the Caribbean are having in determining who will be the NAM chairman for the 1995-98 term. Nicaragua so far has not withdrawn its candidacy for hosting the NAM Summit Conference in September 1995.

Besides Nicaragua, according to reports circulating in Jakarta and New York, Chile and Colombia are also interested in being the new NAM chairman. The decision as to who will be the new NAM chairman may be known before the NAM minister-level meeting in Cairo (Egypt) this June.

Alatas reemphasized, however, that Indonesia feels the NAM chairmanship should rotate. "It is not good for one country to be chairman again. It would be much better for other countries to be given the opportunity. In that way, we can apply a three-year rotation," he said.

Alatas also stressed that Indonesia's willingness to extend temporarily its term of office would not be an extension of mandate. In fact, Indonesia does not expect that the selection of a new NAM chairman will be delayed until the meeting of NAM ministers in New York around September or October 1994.

Received by President

According to Alatas, President Suharto hoped that the NAM Foreign Ministers Consultative Meeting would produce input, views, suggestions, and proposals for implementation by the minister-level conference in Cairo. Alatas said this after accompanying heads of delegations to a reception with President Suharto at Freedom Palace.

The president explained a number of resolutions and decisions from the 10th NAM Summit Conference, particularly those related to management of population and foreign debts. He also touched on NAM political issues.

Alatas said that although the meeting was informal, the president hoped it would produce suggestions for the Cairo meeting, especially about ways to increase NAM cooperation with the Group of 77 and improve South-South and North-South cooperation.

Specifically, the president hoped South-South cooperation can be conducted comprehensively in all areas of development in the respective countries.

According to Alatas, the president believes Third World countries actually can develop projects at low cost and for collective benefit if they mobilize all Third World resources, capabilities, and experience. "That is the next step we must take," he said.

The president feels that new NAM approaches to restimulate a North-South dialogue that is no longer based on a confrontational attitude—but on an attitude of cooperation, partnership, collective responsibility, and mutual dependence—appear to be accepted and increasingly evident, all of which are embodied in the word "partnership."

President Suharto explained to the delegations that steps to expand the North-South dialogue were begun at the G-7 [Group of Seven] summit conference in Tokyo in 1993. On that occasion, the president explained NAM positions and aspirations to the leaders of the seven industrialized countries belonging to the G-7 (Canada, the United States, Britain, Italy, France, Germany, and Japan).

The president emphasized that South-South cooperation includes helping the poorest countries and those that are trapped by debt problems. "In performing its duty as NAM chairman, however, Indonesia does not want to get any benefit or 'butt in,'" Alatas said. Indonesia will be involved in efforts to find solutions. "We will fight for other countries, especially the 50 countries burdened with debt and the 18 low-income countries in Africa and Asia," he asserted.

On Bosnia

The president also took the occasion to touch on political matters like Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially with regard to the Bosnian request for support made to Indonesia and the NAM when Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic visited Jakarta. The plan for an international conference on Bosnia was also mentioned.

The president explained that the issue of holding an international conference is to be discussed immediately by the NAM Coordination Bureau in New York and that efforts are now being made to obtain acceptance and approval from the United Nations and the world community.

In reply to a question about sending volunteers to Bosnia, Alatas said that sending troops to Bosnia is not the way to a solution. He said he understands the frustration and irritation felt by people all over the world with regard to resolving the Bosnian war. "Do not let that irritation be manifested in calls to send troops to Bosnia, for that would not solve the problem but would expand the war instead," he said.

He said the steps that must be persisted in are approaches to the United Nations and the former Yugoslav states, urging them to take serious responsibility, implement UN decisions, and stop aggression. In addition, the slaughter should be stopped, by using UN military force if necessary.

"Thus, the way is not through an expanded war, in which each country would take part in warfare, but we must

uphold international law and support the actions of the UN Security Council," he emphasized.

In reply to a question about a candidate for host of the 11th Summit Conference and chairman of the NAM for the 1993-98 [as published] term, Alatas said the next candidate is Nicaragua. However, Nicaragua has yet to state its willingness and is still considering the matter while discussing it with other countries in Latin America. It is hoped that the issue will be resolved quickly.

Touching on the failure to hold a G-15 [Group of 15] summit conference in India last year, the minister said the postponed summit conference will be held in New Delhi, India, this March. "We hope that this time there will be no problem in obtaining a quorum," he said. There can be no representatives at the summit conference, and at least 9 or 10 chiefs of member states must be present.

*Parties Should Decide on Leadership Succession

94SE0101A Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSENJATA in Indonesian 22 Mar 94 pp 1, 10

[Text] Jakarta (ANGKATAN BERSENJATA)—MPR [People's Consultative Assembly] Deputy Speaker Prof. Dr. H.A. Amiruddin says that there is no need to worry about the issue of national leadership succession, because the mechanism for it already exists in laws.

"We do not follow a system like the one in Latin America, where the president may be replaced at any time. That can produce instability," Amiruddin said in reply to reporters' questions at his office on Monday, 21 March.

In response to a question as to the significance of President Suharto's recent repeated mention of succession, Amiruddin said he did not dare to judge. "Whether there is already a presidential candidate, or the emergence of a presidential candidate is expected, I do not know," he said.

"In fact, he says the subject of succession has many definitions. It can be a question of the person, the mechanism, on the understanding of the term itself," he added. "It is clear that a leader will emerge at the time he is needed," Amiruddin declared.

Amiruddin said the issue of succession should merely be left for each of the sociopolitical forces to think about when the time comes. This includes the subject of GBHN [Broad Outline of State Policy] materials as well as the question of the next candidates for president and vice president.

"All the sociopolitical forces have certainly considered and readied their candidates, who will then be submitted to their factions in the MPR," he added.

According to Amiruddin, if a single candidate emerges, the system should not be blamed. It should be asked, however, if they did not dare to nominate their "champions." "Making nominations is a requirement, and such political activity does not imply an effort to seize 'power,'" he continued.

In reply to a question whether sociopolitical organizations must now prepare their "champions" for the next succession and publicize their names, Amiruddin said that preparing "champions" now is not a problem.

As for mentioning the names of "champions," he said he could not yet say. "Judging by experience and circumstances, there is a danger if names are mentioned too soon," he said without explaining what he meant by "danger."

Amiruddin admitted that the culture of Indonesian society does not yet support a situation in which the names of persons are mentioned. Developments in society still show variations in thought and opinion. There is the worry that misunderstanding could cause confusion.

"Does that mean there is not yet a democratic maturity in society?" a reporter asked. "It is not a question of whether democracy is mature or not, but a question of culture," Amiruddin replied.

Laos

Australian Immigration Minister Arrives

BK1304080994 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Nick Bolkus, minister of immigration and ethnic affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia, and his delegation arrived in Vientiane yesterday on an official and friendly visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] at the invitation of LPDR Interior Minister A-sang Laoli. Nick Bolkus and his delegation were welcomed at Wattai Airport by Deputy Interior Minister Siangsom Kounlavong and a number of high-ranking Interior Ministry cadres. Also on hand at the airport to welcome the delegation was Michael Mann, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the LPDR from the Commonwealth of Australia.

During the visit, Nick Bolkus is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on LPDR Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha. He will hold a meeting to exchange experiences with Interior Minister A-sang Laoli and will meet Khamtan Thepbouali, acting chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction. Nick Bolkus and his delegation are also scheduled to visit some historic and cultural sites in Vientaine Municipality and Luang Prabang Province.

SRV National Assembly Delegation Ends Visit

BK1204104994 Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Vientiane, April 12 (KPL)—A delegation of the Office of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam led by Vu Mao, member of the CPV CC [Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee], head of the Standing Committee and head of the Office of the National Assembly of the S.R. [Socialist Republic] of

Vietnam left here for home on April 10 ending its official visit since April 3 to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic].

During its 7 day visit to the country, the Vietnamese delegation had talks and signed a protocol with the Lao side which was led by Chaleun Yisapaoheu, member of the LPRP CC [Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee], member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and head of the Office of the National Assembly of Laos. The Vietnamese delegation also called on Mr. Saman Vi-gnaket, Politburo member of the LPRP CC, and president of the National Assembly of Laos.

The delegation also visited Vientiane and Luang Prabang provinces where it saw a number of economic and cultural bases.

Seeing the delegation off at Wattai Airport were Mr. Chaleun Yiapaoheu and Vietnamese Ambassador to Laos, Mr. Bui Van Thanh and other high ranking officials of the National Assembly.

Memorandum on Missing Vietnamese Signed

BK1204104694 Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Vientiane, April 12 (KPL)—Lao Labour and Social Welfare Minister Thongloun Sisoulit, on April 9, signed with the visiting Vietnamese minister for labour, war veterans and social welfare a memorandum of understanding on missing Vietnamese volunteers in Laos during the war time.

The memorandum refers to the minutes of the 16th meeting of the joint cooperation commissions of Laos and Vietnam. This document stipulates the return of the remains of Vietnamese volunteers who lost their lives in Laos during the war time, and the building of a 'militant solidarity' monument in Laos.

The two ministries agreed to closely coordinate in carrying out the excavation and removal of the Vietnamese volunteers' remains back to Vietnam this year from three cemeteries in the Provinces of Oudomsai, Xieng Khouang and Attopeu. On their bilateral cooperation on labour and social welfare matters, the two ministries will exchange technical documents and experience.

Thailand

Missing Russian Diplomat Believed 'Still Alive'

BK1404083094 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 14 Apr 94 p 12

[Text] Talking to NAEO NA about the disappearance of Russian Embassy Third Secretary Igor Makeyev, Pradap Phibunsongkhram, director general of the Foreign Ministry's European Affairs Department, said that press reports on the issue had both positive and negative effects. Some reports had caused confusion. He believed however, that Mr. Igor is still alive. The police would have the news report if he had died.

Pradap said the report that Mr. Igor took with him a computer containing secret information was untrue. The diplomat's position is not important. He has the duty of issuing visas. His work has nothing to do with computers. Pradap also said that it was also impossible that Mr. Igor might have returned to Russia. As Russia is still a communist country, he can live comfortably here rather than in Russia.

"If the diplomat wants to seek a new life in a third country, the Russian Embassy would have already informed the Foreign Ministry. As a result, I still believe that Mr. Igor is still in Thailand. He may go somewhere to escape the heat. The police, however, have to investigate the reasons for his disappearance," Pradap said.

Trang Governor, Police Official on Terrorism

BK1304081094 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Trang Governor David Wichaidit has discussed the spread of terrorism in his province and Phatthalung Province. He said the government's intelligence is more broad and detailed than the media's. For this reason, Trang Province has stepped up precautions and measures to deal with the possibility of terrorism.

Regarding a report that the prime minister's home might be the target of a bomb attack, Trang provincial officials will try to ensure security in all areas, although there is not enough manpower to cover every area around the clock. The province can only increase precautionary measures in likely target areas. The people can be confident that the province is doing its best to maintain security through constant coordination with the Fourth Army Region.

Asked if he reported this information to the prime minister, the Trang governor said the prime minister did not pay attention only to Trang Province, but to the entire country. The prime minister did not ask anything specific. The province did not make any specific report to the prime minister because it regards this as taking normal security precautions. Asked if the situation might worsen, the Trang governor said he could not comment on other provinces, but he is confident that his province will not be affected much by the reported possibility of terrorist activities. This is because his province has had relevant intelligence reports for some time and has been constantly vigilant. He said no special police unit has been sent to protect the prime minister's residence because such a measure could frighten passers by. He also does not believe such a measure would be the correct security method. He gave assurances, however, that there are both secret and overt security plans as well as ad hoc security center in his province that he would rather not reveal to the public.

Meanwhile, Police Colonel Phitsanu Bunyarat, deputy commander of the Railway Police, noted the security measures for trains operating on southern routes. He said the police department has made plans with the units concerned—the military; the border patrol police; and the governors of Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat—to prevent train sabotage. More railway policemen have been

assigned to trains, particularly the Bangkok-Sungai Kolok train and the Sungei Kolok-Bangkok train, while they travel along the dangerous section between Hat Yai and Sungei Kolok. Four policemen have been added to these trains in addition to the previous four. They will be equipped with modern arms and communications equipment. This should be sufficient to protect passengers. Capable policemen have been chosen especially for this purpose.

Phitsanu said several units have been assigned responsibility for overseeing the safety of sections of railroad track. There is a problem with inefficient intelligence collection, however, caused by religious and language issues. Officials do not have enough experience with these issues.

THAI RAT on Cambodian Border Situation

BK1404072094 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 14 Apr 94 pp 1, 22

[Text] According to a correspondent's report from Aranyaprathet, Police Major General Tit Kim-on, the chief of police in Poipet, Cambodia, came to Ban Pakkat, Aranyaprathet District with some men at 0200 on 13 April to receive 16 Cambodian soldiers from Colonel Ongkon Thongprasom, deputy chief of the Thai-Cambodian Coordination Office. These Cambodian soldiers fled into Thailand on 10 April to escape the Khmer Rouge encirclement and bombardment of Pailin.

Police Lieutenant Colonel Kay Kien, 40, one of the Cambodians who fled to Thailand, said he was given instructions from the government by Police Lt. Col. Teap Li. The instructions were to protect Pailin—captured from the Khmer Rouge on 19 March—by taking 150 men to defend Phum O Lak, about 3 km from the Thai border and 22 km northwest of Pailin. They came under heavy Khmer Rouge fire and received no government reinforcements. Thus, they had to flee into Thailand on 11 April [date as published]. They asked the Thai force in the area to send them back to Battambang. Teap Li disappeared; his fate is unknown.

According to the latest report, although there has been no confirmation of the Khmer Rouge recapturing Pailin, Cambodian Government soldiers say the Khmer Rouge now has the advantage because it is in a position to cut off supply routes and carry out guerrilla activities in many areas, particularly in Pailin itself. They expect more Cambodian Government soldiers to flee into Thailand.

Moreover, there have been occasional violent acts along the border. On the same morning, the inspector of the Khlong Nam Sai police station received a report that a Cambodian man and woman, about 50-60 years old, were killed and their bodies left near Ban Noi Si Chomphu, about 20 km from Aranyaprathet. Their bodies showed that they were killed by sharp instruments. They were reportedly killed by Cambodian or Thai robbers who took their four cows, which had been grazing in Thai territory. Efforts are being made to inform their relatives.

Concerted Effort Urged To Restore Cambodian Trust

BK1404080494 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 14 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Thai-Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] It is certainly counterproductive for the Thai and Cambodian Governments and their senior officials to use various occasions to talk about problems between the two countries, especially if they speak to foreign or Thai correspondents. What results is continued misunderstanding. The fact that the Thai side suggested that the Cambodian Government use diplomatic channels to resolve misunderstandings between them, rather than airing their opinions through the mass media, is a good idea.

The Thai suggestion should not be directed only at the Cambodian Government, but the Thai Government itself should carry out this suggestion even if the Cambodians do not heed it and continue to accuse Thailand through foreign correspondents. An example of the Cambodian accusation concerns assistance of Thai soldiers to the Khmer Rouge during the fight for Pailin. The Thai Government should resort to diplomatic channels to deal with this issue instead of making rebuttals through the mass media.

It appears that so far, the foreign media is prejudiced against the Thai military on issues pertaining to Cambodia. The way to erase this prejudice is to be open and to permit inspection. For example, after using diplomatic channels the Thai side should inform the media of its actions. The Thai Government must act to remedy the wrong understanding of the country concerned. Once such action has been taken, the Thai Government should hold a major news conference to inform the world of its actions.

The Cambodian problem will occupy Thailand and create continual anxiety if Thailand ignores the problem. If the Thai Government does not correctly handle the problem, Thailand will continue to be on the receiving end of accusations arisen from either prejudice or distrust. Therefore, the solution is to be open, honest, and to allow inspection. The Thai Government must give real priority to resolving misunderstandings with the Cambodian Government and the media. It appears that we have not done so. This could be because it was felt that the problem was not that serious. It is an issue however, which will affect international trust in Thailand.

The history between Thailand and Cambodia appears to be repeating itself again. The current Cambodian Government distrusts Thailand and accuses it of abetting the Khmer Rouge. The Thai Government must make a concerted and prompt effort to address this distrust. It must not ignore the problem because peace in Cambodia will benefit Thailand, particularly the Thai people along the border.

Vietnam

Australia's Prime Minister Keating Ends Visit

BK1304143894 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating and his wife visited Ho Chi Minh City on 12 April. Truong Tan Sang, the people's committee chairman, held a meeting with the Australian prime minister and his entourage that same day.

Prime Minister Paul Keating expressed his pleasure in visiting Ho Chi Minh City, a beautiful and lively city of Vietnam. He said that Australia and Vietnam shared similar features in various aspects and that the Australian Government wishes to expand cooperation with Vietnam in various domains.

Prime Minister Paul Keating visited the Australian invested BHT Bien Hoa Steel Company and the Vietnam-Australia joint venture VIDEMIX Prefabricated Cement Block Factory in Thu Duc District. He also met with the Australian community in Ho Chi Minh City.

Prime Minister Paul Keating and his wife left Ho Chi Minh City this morning, 13 April, concluding his official visit to Vietnam with splendid success.

Russian Delegation To Promote Cooperation

Vo Van Kiet Meets With Yarov

BK1304152094 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 13—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here this afternoon a delegation of the Russian Federation's Sub-Commission of the Russia-Vietnam Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Commercial and Scientific, Technological Cooperation who is here for the third session of the commssion.

On this occasion, the Russian head delegate, Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov affirmed that the Russian Federation will try not to lose its position in various branches in Vietnam that in the past used to cooperate with, and at the same time to seek for new cooperation fields in order to have a fair competition with other foreign countries being present in Vietnam. The Government of the Russian Federation also encourages the expansion of cooperative relations between branches and localities of the two countries for the prosperity of each country and conforming to the traditional Russia-Vietnam relations.

Speaking to his guests, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressed his profound thanks to the former Soviet Union previously and the Russian Federation at present for their great assistance to Vietnam in its national construction and defence, the best symbols of which, he said, are Hoa Binh hydro-electric power construction and Vietsovpetro. He also affirmed that the Vietnamese Government respects the consolidation and promotion of the friendly and cooperative relations with the Russian Federation. This is the inheritance of the traditional relations with a fine past between the two peoples and countries in many fields, scales and with great efficiency. Vietnam will continue that cooperation path, Mr. Kiet concluded.

Tran Duc Luong, Yarov Visit Power Plant

BK1404093294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] A ceremony was held this morning, 14 April, at the Hoa Binh Hydroelectric Power Plant to inaugurate the eighth—and also last—group of generators there. Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov attended the ceremony.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet sent a congratulatory message to Vietnamese and Russian cadres and workers in charge of the project.

Nong Duc Manh Receives Chinese NPC Delegation

BK1404094494 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] A delegation of the Financial and Economic Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress [NPC], led by Vice Chairman Zeng Xianlin, paid a working visit to our country from 9 April at the invitation of the Vietnamese National Assembly's Economy and Budget Committee.

The delegation was cordially received by National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh. The delegation held talks with the delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly's Economy and Budget Committee. The objective of the talks was to strengthen the friendly and cooperative ties between the two committees. The delegation had a working session with the leading officials of the Ministries of Finance and Trade and of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment.

The delegation toured Ha Bac Province and a number of plants built in Hanoi and Ha Bac with Chinese aid to our country. During those meetings and working sessions, leading officials of the Vietnamese agencies and localities informed the delegation of the national situation and of the important achievements that our people have scored in the national renovation and construction cause.

The comrade head delegate welcomed our country's renovation achievements and expressed the Chinese side's desire to promote the friendship and good neighborliness between the two national assemblies and peoples for the sake of each country's interest.

The delegation left Hanoi today to visit a number of southern provinces before going home.

French Military Delegation Ends Visit

BK1304151594 Hanoi VNA in English 1437 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 13—A delegation of the French high- ranking Military Research Institute led by its director, Gen. Francois Bersson, left Ho Chi Minh City today ending its 8-day working visit to Vietnam.

While in Ho Chi Minh City, the French guests visited the 7th Military Zone, and other establishments. They also paid a visit to Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province.

Party Delegation Concludes Visit to Japan

BK1304151394 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 13—A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam led by Dao Duy Tung member of the Politbureau and secretary of the party Central Committee left Japan today concluded a week-long visit to Japan. [paragraph as received]

While there the delegation was received and given a banquet by Fuwa Tetsuzo, president of the Japan Communist Party's [JCP's] Presidium, and held talks with a JCP delegation.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Japan Nguyen Tam Chien also took part in the delegation's activities.

Tourism Cooperation Agreement Signed With Malaysia

BK1404065094 Hanoi VNA in English 0627 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 14—An agreement on tourism cooperation between Vietnam and Malaysia was signed here yesterday. Signatories were General Director of the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) Do Quang Trung and Malaysian Minister of Culture and Tourism Datuk Sabaruddin bin Chik.

The signing ceremony witnessed by representatives of the Vietnam Foreign Ministry and Malaysian Ambassador to Vietnam Cheah Sam Kip took place during a 5-day visit from April 12-16 by a delegation of Malaysia's Ministry of Culture and Tourism led by Minister Datuk Sabaruddin bin Chik.

While in Vietnam, the Malaysian delegation had working sessions with the leadership of the VNAT. The two sides exchanged experience in promoting tourism in the two countries. They also agreed on the orientation and measures to further strengthen their cooperation in tourism.

The Malaysian delegation was received by Deputy Minister Phan Van Khai and Minister of Culture and Information Tran Hoan.

Economic, Trade Relations With India Reviewed

BK1304135494 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Indian Secretary of State in Charge of External Affairs Mr. Bhatia will visit Vietnam in the near future, according to an agreement between the two governments of Vietnam and India. Here is a review of the present relations between India and Vietnam.

The fifth session of the Vietnam-India Joint Commission on Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation was held in New Delhi a year ago. On this occasion the two sides discussed a number of issues concerning comprehensive bilateral cooperation which so far have been fruitful. In the next session, the two sides will review implementation on what have been adopted at the last session and plan to sign an agreement on avoidance of double taxation.

Traditional relationship between Vietnam and India has been consolidated and developed in recent years with an exchange of visit by leaders of the two countries. Together with the solid political relations, economic ties have been developed. Two-way trade between Vietnam and India increased from $10 million in 1989 to $100 million.

Bilateral cooperation in personnel training has been very effective. In the last session, the two sides unanimously agreed to readjust the structure of their cooperation to be suitable with Vietnam's renovation and India's economic reform.

India has helped Vietnam modernize the textile industry, railway service, and personnel training, in water resources, nuclear energy, and agriculture. India has cooperated with Vietnam in oil exploration and exploitation. Besides bilateral government cooperation, the two sides also set up cooperation among companies and joint ventures. It is expected that the sixth session of the Vietnam-India Joint Commission will obtain more positive results in conformity with the aspiration of both countries.

Military Party Holds Midterm Party Conference

BK1404072394 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Radio correspondent Le Thanh reports that the Hanoi Capital Military Region Party Committee [HCMRPP] held a mid-term party conference.

The political report presented at the conference states that in the last three years, the HCMRPP has exerted many efforts to consolidate its force and improve its military form, thus creating an important foundation to work with other forces to maintain political stability in the capital. On that foundation, the awareness of function and duty in the entire party committee has been strengthened and deepened. Compared with the duty requirements, however, the Hanoi Capital Armed Force [HCAF] still has to improve its service quality. It must pay more attention to building an all-people national defense to match the market-oriented economy and broaden its external economic relation, which is still slow in its renovation undertaking. The political knowledge and ability of the HCAF are not on a par with its responsibility.

Attending and addressing the conference, Senior Lieutenant General Le Kha Phieu, member of the Political Bureau and director of the Political General Department, hailed the efforts and achievements of the HCMRPP over the past two years and more. The general also repeated the requirements imposed on the HCMRPP in the coming period. First of all, the entire party committee must strive to improve its capacity and knowledge to match all requirements for a capital military region. Together with the upgrading of political ability, every cadre and party member must have complete knowledge and capacity to accomplish all entrusted duties. The entire party committee must satisfactorily complete its duty to build a regular armed force and to build the military region up to the trust of the armed forces in the entire country.